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Narcotics Police From 38 Countries Open Meeting

PA2304231291 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1950 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Cartagenas de Indias, 23 Apr (DPA)—Colombian President Cesar Gaviria said today during the inauguration of the Ninth Conference on Controlling Drugs, held in the Caribbean city of Cartagena de Indias, that the problem of drug trafficking cannot be solved with Patriot missiles, but with an overall policy that ranges from the replacement of crops to the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

During the summit, which will last until 26 April, the narcotics police of 38 countries will be designing a strategy to expedite the war on money laundering and the unlawful trafficking of chemicals, two crimes directly related to the activities of the drug trafficking mafia.

According to Gaviria, "The drug problems cannot be solved with Patriot missiles or a ground offensive with armored tanks and heavy artillery. All the cure-alls that have been proposed as isolated alternatives have proved to be insufficient in the long run."

An overall solution to the drug trafficking problem, he added, consists of implementing such measures as controlling the sale, interdiction, rehabilitation, education, fighting organized crime, eradication of crops, and punishment for drug consumption, among other aspects.

At this meeting, the president proposed the creation of a regional coordination and information center for operations against drug trafficking, which will seek to avoid "isolated efforts by a nation."

"Our experiences must be shared by nations that so request it, but to make that possible it becomes essential that industrialized nations offer the necessary financing so that the cooperation effort can be viable," Gaviria noted.

The president added that Colombia has had to "pay a high price" for its leading role in the world's war on drug trafficking because of the reaction by the terrorist mafia. In assessing the result of the anti-mafia operations, Gaviria indicated that last year 45 tons of cocaine were seized, an amount 10 times higher that in 1985.

"The figures, which by themselves are impressive, gain their true scope when one gives them a human perspective. The cocaine seized last year amounts to 45 million single doses. The young people of the consumer countries had 45 million fewer opportunities to satisfy their acquired vice," he stressed.

Gaviria also defended his strategy to bring drug traffickers to justice through various decrees that exclude extradition and lower penalties for those who surrender to the authorities. "Extradition, though certainly a useful instrument, cannot continue as the sole or chief instrument in this struggle," said the president after noting that the new policy implemented in Colombia responds to the need to strengthen justice.

So far, eight drug lords have accepted the special decrees, including brothers Jorge Luis, Fabio, and Juan David Ochoa, prominent leaders of the Medellin drug cartel. Gaviria, however, was sorry that the offensive launched in Colombia against the drug mafia had increased cocaine production in other countries of the region, where criminals have built laboratories to process the drug.

He said that this struggle entails not just coordination among narcotics authorities, but also among the different government programs. The lack of coordination, Gaviria affirmed, has became evident over the past two years when the war on drugs in Colombia caused the price of coca leaves to drop in the producing countries at the right moment to replace those crops in Peru and Bolivia.

"The price went from one dollar per 100 kg of coca leaves to 21 cents. If the Governments of Peru and Bolivia had received active, sufficient, and rapid aid from the industrialized nations to promote the replacement of crops, precisely when the prices were low, today the outlook would be very different," the president remarked.

To conclude, Gaviria asked developed nations to increase their cooperation with the Adean countries affected by drug trafficking, especially in adopting the means to accelerate their exports.

Toward that effect, he asked the conference to send a message to the U.S. Congress to expedite the approval of the "Adean initiative" proposed by President George Bush to mitigate the difficulties Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia are facing.

To Fight Money Laundering

PA2304235891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2031 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 23 Apr (EFE)—Several proposals to control the "laundering" of drug money have been presented at the Ninth Conference on Controlling Drugs, which began on 23 April in the Colombian city of Cartagena.

One of the proposals urges the governments of the 38 countries that are attending the world meeting to endorse the approval and ratification of the UN Vienna Agreement on narcotics.

In addition, this proposal calls on the governments to facilitate the seizure of illegal money in each country and calls on each state to train special police forces to apprehend alleged drug traffickers, who may be carrying out financial operations with resources obtained from the sale of drugs.

During the inaugural day of this conference, the countries that are participating also requested the creation of effective information systems, in-depth investigations, and the swift signing of bilateral and multilateral agreements not only with the United States, but also with

other countries. This will allow these countries to track down the illegally obtained property and determine its origin.

The objective of the Ninth Conference on Controlling Drugs, in which delegates and observers from 38 countries are participating, is to prepare a strategy for fighting drug trafficking on different fronts.

The meeting will adjourn on 26 April. On this day, the conclusions reached by the police directors and those responsible for the drug struggle in the countries that are attending the meeting will be made public.

Health Ministers Meet in Bolivia, Discuss Cholera

PY2304141091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The meeting of health ministers in Sucre was attended by representatives from Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Cuba, Ecuador, and Spain. During their meetings the ministers established mechanisms for the fight against cholera and created an emergency committee that will work in Lima on reports of progress against the cholera problem. The committee will present its findings at the next meeting, which will be held in Caracas.

The delegation of ministers today visited President Paz Zamora at Government Palace to fill him in on the results of the meeting. Bolivian Health Minister Mario Paz Zamora was in charge of introducing the ministers to the president of the Republic.

[Begin Minister Paz Zamora recording] I have come here to introduce the health ministers of the Andean region who have worked with us and the chairmen of the Bolivian Institutes of Social Security, as our beloved brothers. The work that has been done is very important within the framework of the [words indistinct] Andean region health ministers. We have come here to greet you and to report on the most important agreements we have reached. [end recording]

Colombian Health Minister Camilo Gonzalez was appointed the committee's representative before the president of the Republic.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] I have been given the honor of speaking on behalf of all other ministers. I was asked to convey the greetings of the countries that were founded by Simon Bolivar and those of the ministers who are working together to overcome the difficulties in our countries' health sector.

Our major problems are of a social nature and, although they cause several difficulties, they also lead to several benefits. Each one of our meetings has been [words indistinct]. The principles of liberty, fraternity, and equality have been applied to the health and social security areas and to the defense of the rights of people. Therefore, we believe that the slogan of the new democracy will be solidarity, universality, and equality. This is our message [word indistinct]. [end recording]

President Paz Zamora emphasized the importance of the Sucre meeting of ministers from the social security and health sectors.

[Begin President Paz Zamora recording] Our objectives have been fully complied with, and I believe that we have succeeded in leaving behind formality and the obligation to attend meetings just to comply with our duties. Based on what I have heard from you, I believe that during the meetings the ministers actually discussed the basic and important realities of our region.

I thank you for the privilege of being the first president of the Andean region to hear directly from you about the results of the meetings in Sucre. I will report on these results to my Venezuelan counterpart and to the those who will attend the meeting to be held in Caracas. I am sure that the Caracas meeting will be a success, mostly because it will be based on what has been achieved here. The topics discussed during the Sucre meetings concern not only the health ministers of the region but also the governments. We must now implement the measures—about which you are so well-informed—which are related to economic adjustments and the rationality and competitiveness of our economies, because the international market is increasingly demanding and competitive for countries such as ours.

We must also find a way of combining the efforts of achieving a more rational and effective economy without being unfair to people in general and especially to the inhabitants of our region. We must be fair in meeting our peoples' needs in the fields of health and future prospects.

I must tell you that these needs are not always perceived clearly. These challenges must be clearly and favorably met. They must be met from a strictly humanitarian and social point of view, as the Colombian minister said. To our concern over the inhabitants of our region and countries we must add our concern over the rationality and productivity that are required from those who live in an extremely competitive world. To talk about health is to talk about the human resources of a country. The more human resources a country has, the more competitive it will be in the economic and other fields. [end recording]

OAS Very 'Interested' in Americas Initiative

PA2304005491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2201 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Caracas, 22 Apr (EFE)—The OAS today voiced the need to create "a forum or mechanism" to "give consistency to the negotiations" between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States within the framework of the "Initiative for the Americas."

OAS Assistant Secretary General Christopher Thomas said at a news conference that the OAS is "particularly interested" in the negotiation process between Latin America and the United States for the creation of a free trade zone on the continent.

Thomas is currently attending a consultative meeting with the participation of 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries members of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) to evaluate the so-called "Bush initiative."

Thomas presented a report prepared by the OAS Permanent Council on the "Initiative for the Americas" proposed by U.S. President Bush in June 1990. The OAS document stressed that the Bush initiative should be more flexible in handling the subject of Latin America's foreign debt. The OAS document also proposed harmonizing regional integration processes so that they will not be affected within the scheme of commercial reciprocity.

The diversity of laws in Latin America and the Caribbean and the integration commitments that exist in the area should be studied and modified so that they do not clash with the free trade agreements that may be negotiated with the United States. Thomas noted that the idea is to establish a mechanism to define general rules for Latin American and Caribbean countries to accelerate the negotiating process with the United States.

The OAS representative said that his organization has given "first priority" to the "Initiative for the Americas" and is greatly interested in cooperating in this process of negotiation.

Commenting specifically on the case of the Caribbean Common Market (Caricom), Thomas said that these countries announced at the SELA meeting that they will conduct joint negotiations with the United States on their possible participation in a free trade zone.

The OAS official stated that in the next general assembly of his organization, to be held in Chile during the first week of June, the topic of the Bush initiative will take on certain importance, and it is possible that using that opportunity, area countries may define the kind of mechanism they will implement to handle negotiations with the United States.

ECLA Holds Talks on Bush's Trade Initiative

PA2304034491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2211 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Caracas, 22 Apr (EFE)—Guatemalan Gert Rosenthal, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), said in Caracas today that the creation of a free trade zone on the continent "will only be possible in the very long term."

Rosenthal told a news conference that U.S. President George Bush's "Enterprise for the Americas" is a process that will require many phases of negotiations and that it cannot be expected that there will be a free trade zone in the region by the end of this decade.

The ECLA official is attending, along with delegates from 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries, a consultative meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) on the Bush initiative, as part of the region's relations with the United States.

He added that Mexico might be the only country that by the end of 1993 will have concluded a process of negotiation with the United States within the framework of the Bush initiative, and it is possible that Chile, Venezuela, and Colombia will follow Mexico.

Rosenthal said those four countries "are the ones which have advanced the most in their internal processes of economic adjustment and which have intensified the social cost" of those programs. [sentence as received]

Mexico's negotiations with the United States will be the barometer by which Latin America will be able to ascertain the direction of the Bush initiative.

The ECLA executive secretary indicated that the formulation of joint Latin American ideas on the Bush proposal must necessarily pass through the process of regional integration.

Rosenthal said the main barrier the region must overcome in a process of commercial integration with the United States is the different macroeconomic policies that exist in the region.

Regarding the situation of the negotiations within GATT, he said one should not talk of the failure of the "Uruguay Round."

The ECLA official said there "is consensus" that by the end of 1991 or the beginning of 1992 "a satisfactory agreement, from the Latin American standpoint," will have been achieved.

He explained that the agricultural issue, which has pitted the United States against the European Community (EC), "is on the path of being resolved" among the parties in conflict.

GATT will emerge as an "expanded and strengthened" institution and as a principal multilateral forum. In fact, some countries are "rushing" to join this institution, Rosenthal said.

Agricultural Summit Postponed Due to Earthquake

PA2404003691 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] In view of the earthquake that shook Panama and Costa Rica on 22 April, the Panamanian Government has postponed the Central American agricultural summit scheduled for 25 April. The decision to postpone the

agricultural summit in Panama was made after Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier canceled his participation because he must first deal with the emergency in Costa Rica.

Caricom To Attend Canadian Investment Meetings

FL2204152091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1459 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 22, CANA—The Caribbean Community (Caricom) will seek to sell itself as a competitive investment centre to businessmen from more than 300 Canadian companies this week. The one-day investment promotion meetings—April 23 in Toronto and April 25 in Montreal—represent an initiative of the Canadian Government, in consultation with Caricom, to interest Canadian investors to do business in this region, the Caricom Secretariat here said.

In preparation for the conference, consultants were commissioned by the Secretariat to prepare profiles of the sectors in which the Caricom countries would like to encourage investment. The six sectors selected are agribusiness, light manufacturing, resource-based industries, tourism, services, and high technology.

Presentations will be supported by various country representatives and will provide information on regional and national fiscal, trade, and industrial promotion policies, the Secretariat said.

The Caricom presentations will also include the history and experiences of Canadian companies which have made successful investments in the Caribbean. The sector profiles will be presented after a preliminary paper entitled "The Caribbean: A Competitive Location for Investment" is presented.

Representatives of member states will receive assistance from the Canadian Government and the Caribbean Development Bank to attend the Toronto and Montreal meetings.

Andean Group Official Praises Cuba's Cooperation

FL1904144191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] The importance of Cuba's participation in the Andean Group's (Hipolito Inanue) health agreement was stressed by Andean Group Executive Secretary (Nasario Roman), who evaluated Cuba's presence as beneficial.

At a recess in a meeting of experts to prepare for the 15th meeting of Andean Group health ministers, which will begin tomorrow in La Paz, (Roman) stated that Cuba is in the Caribbean but its presence in the Andean Group in this field has been constant. He recalled as a remote but outstanding precedent that in 1970, President Fidel Castro himself donated blood for the victims of the earthquake that year in Peru and sent doctors and material aid to that Andean country. He also mentioned Cuba's readiness to cooperate with other nations through very active actions of solidarity in the face of catastrophes and other emergencies, as recently occurred with Peru during the cholera epidemic.

Cuban Health Minister Attends

FL2004121591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Upon his arrival in Bolivia, Cuban Public Health Minister Julio Teja has expressed our country's readiness to cooperate with the Andean Group countries. Teja arrived in La Paz to participate in the meeting of Andean Group health ministers starting today.

In a brief exchange with the press, accompanied by Bolivian Health Minister Mario Paz Zamora, Teja said that he is going to the meeting in Cuba's name, with our already known willingness to cooperate with our southern neighbors. Asked about cholera, he said that everything is ready in Cuba to eradicate the disease very quickly if it should appear—but which has not occurred—and everything possible is being done so that it will not occur.

Barbados, Venezuela Sign 5-Year Energy Protocol

FL1904232591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1739 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 19, CANA—Venezuela, increasing bilateral energy sector and other contacts with Caribbean countries, signed a five-year protocol here Friday for technical assistance to Barbados' petroleum sector. The technical co-operation agreement covers training of Barbados National Oil Company (BNOC) personnel in production, gas processing, and computerised data evaluation, and technical assistance in geological services, Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford said after signing for Barbados.

Energy and Mining Minister Celestino Armas, signing for Venezuela, said this latest Venezuelan bilateral energy sector agreement with a Caribbean country aimed to help ensure supplies of local hydrocarbons in the near future. Armas also promised to help expedite a U.S. 2.1 million dollars petroleum sector loan request to the Venezuelan Investment Fund, the third for BNOC from the Venezuelan agency. Venezuela has previously provided the services of a production engineer and a geological team, as well as an attachment opportunity at the Maraven Oil Company.

Sandiford said Venezuelan assistance has helped raise petroleum output. Average annual crude oil production grew from 182,500 barrels in 1972-1983 to 520,000 in 1984-1990, and natural gas from 8,700 to 31,800 cubic metres. "Our goal is to increase the domestic supply of total crude oil requirements above the current 31 per cent so that we can reduce our dependence on external supplies and in the process, save foreign exchange," Sandiford said.

"We feel that it is very important to try to interchange our experience in order to contribute to strengthen the democratic governments in the region and to try to work

together to improve the quality of life for our people," the Venezuelan minister told CANA.

"We have improved a lot our bilateral relations with many of the countries of the Caribbean area. Let me mention Trinidad and Tobago. We have several commercial contacts that we initiated at the government level. We are processing about 70,000 barrels per day of Venezuelan crude in the refineries owned by the government company in Trinidad and also we are marketing through a joint venture.... to the Caricom [Caribbean Community] area while at the same time as in the other countries we have also the training of human resources in exploration, refining, computerisation, and other technical aspects."

Venezuela, already involved in the energy sector in the Netherlands territories of Curacao, Bonaire, Aruba, recently entered arrangements with St. Kitts and Grenada. "We've just signed new agreements with St. Kitts-Nevis to establish the oil supply.... to that country and more recently with Grenada in order to try to explore the possibility of a joint venture between Trintoc [Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company] from Trinidad and Maraven from Venezuela to establish the geological area of potential in Grenada," the Venezuelan minister said.

"Also we have bilateral agreements with Jamaica, not only in the oil sector but we have also extended it to the mining field."

"We asked Mexico to include Haiti in the San Jose Agreement (on Venezuelan-Mexican joint oil assistance to Central American and Caribbean countries) and we are now supplying to Haiti under the terms of the agreement," Armas said.

The minister, noting Venezuelan efforts to participate in the English-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) grouping, looked forward to the effort being highlighted at the coming July Caricom summit in St. Kitts-Nevis.

"We are working as an observer (in Caricom) and I understand that in July the Caricom group will give (Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez) the floor to open the session with a political speech about integration and cooperation between Caricom and other countries of the region," he said.

In terms of energy co-operation between Venezuela and Caribbean countries conducted at the level of Caricom, Armas observed that: "When the crisis in the Gulf started we decided to announce to the world that Venezuela would guarantee the supply of oil.... to the Caribbean and Central America. That I think is a demonstration of goodwill and we will keep working in this way."

Cuba

U.S., UK 'Occupation' of Part of Iraq Criticized

FL2304172791 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1625 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Cuba has criticized the occupation of part of Iraqi territory by the United States, the UK, and other members of the UN Security Council with the pretext of having humanitarian concern for the Kurdish population. The document issued by the Cuban Foreign Ministry [Minrex] states that our country voted against Resolution No. 668 because it believed it was an excuse to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. Our country's position does not rule out the approval of international aid and assistance to Baghdad for the massive exodus of Kurds [as heard], asserts the Minrex note.

Anti-Gorbachev Feelings in USSR Reported

FL2304190091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] PRENSA LATINA reports that just a few hours before a CPSU plenum to analyze the organization's situation and that of the country, the agenda seems to be dominated by the debate on General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. The possibility of demanding explanations of the CPSU general secretary and even considering his replacement was contemplated by 11 organizations of the country, a portion of the party which is said to represent 3 million militants and even people who are not members of the party.

In the middle of the debate, a CPSU official stated the organization's leadership, the strongest within the CPSU, will not support the attempts to dismiss Gorbachev from his post during the plenum scheduled for tomorrow. The unidentified source cited by the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY, RIA, said it was inopportune to begin that type of fighting within the party, when the opposition has gained momentum and the strike movement is heading toward a social explosion.

According to the Russian news agency, the CPSU leadership accepts with plenty of calmness the wave of attacks against the general secretary in various regional and republic committees. In his opinion, it is a matter of a normal argument in which each Communist has the right to express his views. PRENSA LATINA reports that this agency quoted the official saying: We are at a time when we are all against each other.

Commentary Notes Spanish Criticism of Regime

FL2404023091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2331 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Commentary by Lazaro Barredo on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] In politics you see so many perplexing things that [words indistinct]. Such as now, when we hear some Spaniards with their speeches of submission to the empire, asking us to renounce our ideas—well, to be exact, to renounce in any case the spirit that runs through our veins with pride, because we need to remember a little history.

Napoleon's empire seemed invincible 200 years ago. Nation after nation in the vast territory of continental Europe fell at his feet. Only two were missing from his maps: Spain and Russia. Napoleon wanted at any cost to have a government in Spain that would support him. In this, he also believed he would extend his power over the colonies. However, he disregarded the awareness of national unity the Spanish had. In spite of the fact that their king surrendered, they rose up against the insult to their nation and began their heroic struggle through guerrilla warfare.

At that time, no one in subject Europe understood the reason for that stubborn resistance, which they described as senseless, against Napoleon's might. But the national passions that were awakening in Spain in defense of its national independence, and that won, were a revelation that no military power is capable of breaking the people's will when they are willing to fight to the death, if that should be necessary.

We Cubans are honored to be descendents of this stock, and the virility of the Spanish people against the invaders is our model at this time when we are taking on the same national awareness in our uncompromising attitude in defending our sovereignty and independence.

I am saying all this because some Spaniards today, some even in high positions in Spanish political life, have either lost their historical memory, and perhaps are renouncing their ancestors' tradition, or by vocation are like those kings who yielded to the empire and left the people to their fate.

These Spaniards today want us to surrender. They want us to subject our desires to humiliation, and they talk as if we Cubans were responsible for the criminal U.S. embargo, as if we Cubans were to be blamed for the constant attacks of all kinds, the harassment and siege, by the United States. Napoleon also in his time wanted "normality" for Spain, and his solution was to name his brother emperor. The Spanish people at that time refused to be vassals, as today we refuse such indignity, whatever it may cost.

You do not have to do a lot of research to find out what is behind these gentlemen's language. As various Spanish media have pointed out, they are the ones who have been serving U.S. policy since George Bush became president. Given such opportunistic and interfering behavior, we are not surprised that in this way we discover one day that in Madrid some dream of being courtesans of the emperor of the new world order, as in the past others tried to be with Napoleon. They also are running the same risk of great failure. Nations like our cannot be underestimated.

* Attorney General on Economic Crime Problem

91CA0105A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish
8 Feb 91 pp 26-30

[Interview with Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa by Juana Carrasco; place and date not given]

[Text] "Criminal corruption in the economic sphere is the principal enemy of our society today. It has grown because we let our guard down." That was how our colleague Alberto Pozo began one of his opinion pieces last year, just a few weeks after Operation Jingle Bells had begun. Our people, with their characteristic humor and intelligence, dubbed the program Operation "Maceta."

A veteran police reporter, Reinaldo Penalver, has kept us informed of some of the cases in this offensive launched by the Cuban criminal justice system. The rotten apples are being exposed, and many more cases are still being investigated. One such case is that of Luisito "Shopping," the first person shown on television to teach us a lesson.

In order to discover the implications of these crimes, we talked to Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, attorney general of the republic. His office is one of the principal combatants in this battle. Without further ado, we will forge ahead:

[Carrasco] Is there corruption in Cuba?

[De la Cruz] It is dangerous to try to answer that question in absolute terms, because it always depends on what you use as a point of comparison. If you use the manifestations of corruption that exist in most underdeveloped and developed countries, I would say that corruption in Cuba is very incipient and almost nonexistent; but if we look at Cuba's current needs, our society's needs and aspirations, I can tell you that there is corruption in certain sectors of our society; I cannot generalize and say that there is corruption throughout our economy or throughout our state, but there is in certain sectors of the economy.

[Carrasco] Which sectors?

[De la Cruz] There are certain sectors, especially in Havana, linked to services that are provided to the population, involving the chain of distribution of food and basic necessities, where corruption has become evident. I can mention some of the businesses in the areas of commerce, restaurants, storage, fuel, and construction materials. There we have seen indications of what we could call corruption.

Wheeling, Dealing, and Buddyism

[Carrasco] It would be a good idea, then, to explain what is meant by corruption....

[De la Cruz] Well, corruption is an entire criminal organization (even if it is incipient, as it is in Cuba) involving government officials at a certain level—and when I say at a certain level I mean at least as high as the municipal government—and other people who commit crimes in association with them. These organizations have a structure that allows them to operate with a certain degree of efficiency and impunity.

This is what I understand to be corruption, and yes, there is such corruption. There is no reason to deny this fact, because the first thing we must do to work on a problem, to combat it and eradicate it, is to recognize that it exists. I want to emphasize, however, that it is not a widespread problem, but yes, there is corruption in certain sectors of our society.

[Carrasco] But there is a widespread belief among the population that this trend is growing. In fact, people claim—recklessly, in my opinion—that every administrator, every official is corrupt.

[De la Cruz] There is something else at the level of businesses, a mode of operation which, in my view, can give rise to this and even promote corruption, although I would not go so far as to call it that. It is organized buddyism, sometimes for the purpose of solving business problems and sometimes for personal reasons. Networks are established, and an attitude of disrespect for the rules and for the law arises, and tomorrow you can solve a problem yourself.

Sometimes a lot of resources are involved, and there may even be surpluses, but others are in short supply, and then, instead of using the mechanisms of the economy to make up the shortfall, they begin swapping between businesses, wheeling and dealing, calling on the buddy system, bartering back and forth, and over the years, they become addicted to these poor management practices that can lead to more dangerous problems. So tomorrow I have to satisfy the needs of a city official, and as we say in Cuban slang, I "arrange things with him," and this creates a certain dependence, a certain obligation. Then it turns out that he is unable to fulfill his role in society or within the state organization, because he is compromised, and this is seen quite often in businesses.

Foot in Mouth, Not Hand in Till

[Carrasco] But that is bribery, a crime listed in the Penal Code....

[De la Cruz] It does not go that far, it does not constitute bribery because according to the code, for that you must give an official a perk, a privilege, so that he will not do his job at a certain moment or in a specific case, or he must obtain material benefit by abusing his office. This is more subtle than that and there is no enrichment involved. If the person were searched, you might not find anything unusual on him. He is not a "maceta," he does not accumulate money or property, but he definitely solves problems through illicit means.

I think that we must define corruption in the proper terms so that the Cuban public will learn what it is, know what it involves, and report it to the authorities. Corruption requires a certain rank in the state apparatus, and it also requires being systematic and organized to a certain extent.

[Carrasco] Early in the revolution, Che said that here one could put one's foot in one's mouth, but not one's hand in the till. Have we strayed from that dictum?

[De la Cruz] I do not think so. You cannot compare the problem with what we had in the first years of the revolution because no historic moment is the same as any other, and Cuban society today is not the same as it was 25 or 30 years ago. That comparison would not yield any results. In general, the revolution has remained true to Che's dictum, and it has dealt harshly with anyone who steals public funds.

The very fact that in five years we have prosecuted and severely punished three ministers of government is an indication that in Cuba there has been no tolerance for the embezzlement of public funds.

But we have also lacked a systematic approach in some cases. This is even true of the small cases, the small-time thieves who steal every day. They do not have much administrative responsibility, being at a low level, but they cause a great deal of damage, just as much as ministers who embezzle. We did not have a systematic approach or mechanisms for detecting such thieves and taking quick action when it was discovered that they were stealing money from society and from the state.

[Carrasco] Why do you say that a small-time thief causes as much damage as a minister, if the amounts embezzled are different, much smaller?

[De la Cruz] Yes, but 10,000 small-time thieves can break down a society, and a single minister cannot. When it becomes a matter of relatively widespread activity, it is much more dangerous than when a minister steals X amount of money. And that does not mean that we will not come down hard on a thieving minister, but we must also crack down on those small-time thieves who are threatening to expand and become a widespread trend in our society, contributing in one way or another to our moral and political and social deterioration.

We must fight on all fronts, against the thieving minister as well as the small-time thief in a cafeteria or market. We must do that.

People's Participation Is Decisive

[Carrasco] Do all of the country's judicial institutions have the power and the responsibility to carry out that effort? Is that how the problem is to be solved? Or do we need something more?

[De la Cruz] Nonsense! I am convinced that we must take action, the organs of the criminal justice system must take action, as the last link in the chain. We are the last link in the chain. We must take action from the very beginning, and it starts with the responsibility of the management, the responsibility of the worker collective, the responsibility of the community—everyone must be on guard against these activities. If we cannot involve the working masses, the community, and our entire society in a systematic and vertical campaign to combat these problems, we will not win the battle.

[Carrasco] Nevertheless, the people say: The police should do something; the police do nothing. What are the courts doing about it, what is the Attorney General's Office doing about it? Are these accusations correct?

[De la Cruz] The institutions of the criminal justice system have an important role to play; I believe that. But we must make the public realize that their first duty is to report these problems to the authorities. We must make the worker collective realize that it should prevent stealing on the job; it should feel that any theft, diversion of resources, embezzlement, or misappropriation of state resources is a crime against the worker collective itself. In my opinion, that is the first battle to win.

[Carrasco] Much more than on the street, where stolen goods are sold?

[De la Cruz] Yes, because it is at the workplace where the resources are found and where they are stolen. That is where the economy's resources are. Therefore, the first task belongs to the worker collective. To be sure, in the chain of distribution, in commerce, the worker collectives are sometimes very small, and all are involved in the problem in one way or another. This is especially true of the small shops. As a result, it is more difficult to control the situation, but then the community, that is, the neighborhood, local residents have a very important role to play, especially when they are aware of things and realize that things are not working the way they should. In addition, the delegates of the People's Government and the Popular Councils have a major role to play.

Missing Versus Stolen

[Carrasco] By the way, I think we have invented words to replace others; we call stolen goods "missing," and I think this contributes to the fact that people do not consider it a crime. The item is merely missing; it may continue to exist, because theft is too strong a term. Has this euphemism contributed to the spread of crime?

[De la Cruz] I do not believe it is a euphemism. A missing item is a missing item, and theft is theft. It so happens that many reports of missing items are covering up thefts, and our administrative deficiencies and problems in the criminal justice system have prevented us from detecting many of the thefts that lie behind reports of missing items. But these are two different categories that we should not confuse; one has to do with the accounting system, the controls, the financial system. If an item is missing that does not necessarily mean there has been a theft. The key to the problem lies in discovering when a theft is involved, and we have not always been capable of doing that.

That is why the effort to prevent missing items is a direct effort to prevent theft, because this is definitely a situation that encourages crime, when criminals enjoy impunity and go unpunished because of the absence of control mechanisms and the deficiencies in the organization and in the organs of the criminal justice system itself.

[Carrasco] For this reason you have told prosecutors that they should spend 90 percent of their time inspecting businesses and state agencies and prosecuting crimes.

[De la Cruz] That is right....

Everyone's Fight

[Carrasco] Excuse me for interrupting you, because I believe that people are unaware of the real role of the Attorney General's Office; they think prosecutors do nothing but bring charges in court.

[De la Cruz] The Constitution assigns us the task of enforcing the law, and bringing charges and trying criminals is a very important part of that, but not the only one. It is a matter of tradition; that is the way it was in prerevolutionary law, and during much of the revolution. That passive role of merely filing charges dates back to colonial times. But our Socialist Constitution changed that, and we have gradually developed into a law enforcement agency. Consequently, we have that task of conducting audits, in which we investigate to see if the law is being obeyed, and that is independent of the audit or inspection that the business itself has to conduct, and that the ministry must oversee as part of its obligation to perform state inspections. And the Attorney General's Office has a responsibility to make sure those inspection mechanisms work, in addition to conducting its own inspections.

We still lack cadres. We must go through a process of reinforcement, because today we have only 850 prosecutors throughout the country, including the municipal level. In addition, we must train the prosecutors better. But the cure must come at the level of individual businesses and establishments; their executives must perform their functions, the management must be efficient, and the worker collective must feel responsible and involved in everything that happens at the workplace.

Going back to the beginning of our conversation, I would say that in many cases in the problem sectors there has been a lack of both penal and nonpenal mechanisms. But I think that all of society reaches a point at which it becomes aware of its illness and its problems, and now we are all aware of the importance of this phenomenon. There is a very clear, very definite willingness to combat it.

We need time and we need a systematic approach to create this awareness at all levels and in all sectors of society so that Operation Jingle Bells will not be something that lasts only three or four months and then the problem returns. We cannot solve the problem by throwing 2,000 people in prison; we must be systematic in our work, we must solve some problems in the organization of production to prevent this situation. We must all combat the underground economy, achieve a truly efficient management, and bring about the active participation of the worker collective in ongoing popular vigilance and struggle. I say again, this is everyone's responsibility, everyone's fight.

Raul Castro at Eastern Army Anniversary Ceremony

FL2304180091 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1625 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has acknowledged the high level of performance of the Eastern Army during a ceremony held in Holguin marking the 30th anniversary of those armed forces. Raul Castro, founding chief of that command, attended the military review and the ceremony where diplomas were handed to those who made the creation of the Eastern Army possible. Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida and Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, were among them.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez Visits Agricultural Camp

FL2304191091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The most outstanding brigades that perform the various agricultural activities were announced during a bimonthly solidarity meeting in the Sonrisa de la Victoria, a new type of agrarian camp located in the Guira de Melena miscellaneous crops enterprise. Workers from the Foreign Affairs Ministry and mobilized workers fro... some other 30 organizations of the state's central administration worked in this Havana area camp.

Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez made the closing remarks during this solidarity activity. He said he was moved by the great effort shown in the production of food for the people. He also made reference to Fidel's remarks at the main ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs victory in which the responsibility to carry forward the banners of socialism was reaffirmed.

Ecumenical Body on New Understanding of Religion

FL2404015591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2326 GMT 23 Apr 91

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Less than 24 hours after Commander in Chief Fidel Castro repeated his call for national unity, the Cuban Ecumenical Council has issued a statement about the social responsibility of Christians in this regard. At a meeting this past weekend, the council, the Christian Student Movement, and local Presbyterian churches analyzed the social, moral, and political impact of possible membership in the Communist Party of Cuba for revolutionary believers.

In his opening words, the Reverend Raimundo Garcia, a local Presbyterian pastor, called on the churches to close ranks with the people in order to achieve well-being for all. For his part, Raul Suarez, the former president of the Ecumenical Council and a Baptist pastor, stated at the meeting that the very heterogeneous Protestant people are happy because now an old way of understanding the

religious phenomenon is being left behind throughout the country, although there are still cases of misunderstanding on both sides.

* Deficiencies in Telephone Service Discussed

91CA0103A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish
25 Jan 91 pp 30-33

[Interview with Filiberto Au Kim, vice minister for communications and director of the Empresa Telefonica in Havana, by Claribel Terre Morell; place and date not given]

[Text] "What is your phone number?"

"00, dead line."

What until a few years ago may have been an annoying bad joke in Cuba is now a fact of life for the vast majority who, even though they have a phone, are hesitant to say they do.

The situation of the country's telephone system, especially in the capital, is the subject of many a heated conversation, and figures among the most common complaints about services.

Until now officials of the Communications Ministry (MICOM), including the minister himself, have provided numerous explanations in an effort to clarify the future of this medium. Meanwhile, new concerns arise daily among the customers of the national telephone system. Filiberto Au Kim, director of the telephone service at the MICOM, responds to some of these concerns. Others have no answer.

[Terre] Often when it comes time to explain the problems of the phone system, there is talk of the oversaturation of lines and years of use. To what extent is this true?

[Au] The problems of the phone system are found primarily in the nation's capital. In Havana, 75 percent of the technology in the telephone exchanges is 50 to 65 years old on the average, and the utilization of capacity in the main exchanges is above 10 percent.

This is not so in the interior, where the development of the phone system has been significant. Manual switchboards have been replaced with automatic exchanges, and a high degree of automation has been achieved in long-distance service as a result of the installation of new national microwave systems and coaxial cable.

Thus, while the other provinces were developing, the capital was neglected in the area of communications. That, along with the increasing demand, led to the present oversaturation. It should also be noted that there is excessive use of the telephone in our country. This results in heavy traffic, one of the heaviest in the world, in terms of both local and long-distance calls. Today, in 14 days as many calls are made as in one year before the Revolution. The average number of local calls from a telephone in Havana is 15, compared to a worldwide average of no more than three.

[Terre] Why, when people state the above, do they always add that "there are problems of organization, discipline, and the completion of the workday by telephone workers"?

[Au] Principally in Havana, despite determined efforts, it is undeniable that there has been a relaxation of technical standards and procedures. There has been a lack of education and administrative rigor, compounded by the absence of an adequate cadre policy.

Now, among the measures that have been taken are the improvement of the management structures and methods, continued intensive training courses, and the improvement of the intermediate and higher cadres. The work with the cadres has gotten somewhat better.

In addition, the management of the enterprise was reinforced with a vice minister who also serves as director, two national directors from the ministry, and several assistant enterprise management supervisors.

[Terre] There is talk of a lack of skilled personnel.

[Au] Yes, particularly in the capital, in previous years there was no systematic or consistent policy of providing adequate training of personnel through courses to qualify them and requalify them in the activities that required the most proficiency. Moreover, the personnel who did receive training had a very narrow perspective that did not meet the needs of the service. Another factor was the number of absences, transfers, and retirements.

At present we are hiring engineers and mid-level technicians in the specialized fields of communications, and we have three training centers. One of them is in Havana and the other two are in Camaguey and Granma.

In general, the maintenance personnel are young and need more time to gain experience.

[Terre] Why is it that service is interrupted frequently only on weekends, and it is fixed right away on Monday without any breakdown being reported?

[Au] When an operator notices that a phone has been off the hook for longer than usual, either on purpose or due to temporary technical difficulties, tests are done, and the number must be disconnected. The next day it is tested again, and if it is determined that there is no interruption, the line is connected. The customer thinks the phone was fixed even though he did not report it. There may be other reasons as well, such as discipline problems, but systematic supervision has been introduced.

[Terre] Officials used to mention the areas affected worst; lately a certain caution has been noticed. Could it be that the problems now affect all areas?

[Au] No, there are still some areas that are worse off than others: El Cerro, Playa, some parts of Arroyo Naranjo. We are concentrating the forces of the IV Congress Detachment on those areas.

[Terre] As the interruptions become more frequent, there has also been a proliferation of errors in phone

bills. A person who has not received service may get a bill for calls that were never made, or for calls that have already been paid for. Is it computer or human error? Why is the populace so upset? Why do people get so many different answers when they go to the telephone offices to complain?

[Au] The billing system is very complex. Several departments of the Communications Enterprise are involved in one way or another, as are all of the telephone exchanges and other entities that are not under the enterprise's jurisdiction.

Given the need to bill for a large number of services each month, the system has very strict deadlines. Any delay in one operation sets off a chain reaction of deficiencies and errors, in addition to discipline violations.

Furthermore, the system is designed to have a lag of two to three months between the time any movement is made involving a charge or a charge-out on the bill for services, and the time the customer is billed. For example, a long-distance call made by a customer within the country, either through the operator or by direct dial, is billed two months after it is made.

This may explain, in part, the fact that a telephone may be cut off for up to two months while the customer continues to receive bills reflecting long- distance and metered charges. This does not justify continued billings for metered charges for three months or more when the phone is not in service, although billings for international long-distance calls or collect calls are justified.

In the case of metered calls, there is no possibility of proving to the customer that he really made those calls, although we are now investigating equipment and systems and a device is being developed to determine precisely what calls are made.

It is true that the offices give different answers, partly because of the reasons for being unhappy with the service, and partly because of bad information. We are working on all of that.

[Terre] Why has the mail payment service become unreliable?

[Au] There were a number of delays, but careful coordination has now been achieved.

[Terre] How do you explain the fact that major institutions such as hospitals, the Red Cross, and others remain without service for long periods? Is there no provision for such emergencies?

[Au] It may be that a cable with many pairs will be broken and it will take a long time to repair it. Or perhaps a cable will have to be replaced in a complex area and it takes a long time to restore service. There is priority for repairs in all cases.

[Terre] In places where the lines have been completely redone, such as Jaimanitas, Siboney, and Abel Santamaria, why are there still problems even in the service within those same areas?

[Au] The phone service is part of a system. In the places you mentioned, the cables have been replaced, leading to a marked improvement. But the customers there will still have the same problems the rest of the capital has until we are able to achieve total recovery under the telephone restoration and development program.

[Terre] What about the cases of requests for private phone installation that go back 20 or 30 years, how will they be resolved? Is 70 percent still being set aside for private phones? Do you think that the solution of having the District Commissions distribute phones to the people can avoid under-the-table deals and cronyism? How much of these installations will be paid by the state, and how much by the public?

[Au] In 1991 a total of 20,000 new telephones will be installed, including first of all transfers, party lines [telefonos de uso colectivo], plus what is distributed among the population through the District Commissions. Only 30 percent will be earmarked by the Communications Ministry for requests by agencies and political and mass institutions.

Those people who submitted requests years ago may inform the respective commissions of that fact, and it may be taken into consideration in making a decision, all other things being equal.

I believe that this method will be free of under-the-table deals, because the people selected to serve on the commission will be residents of the neighborhood who will be aware of the labor merits, the social conduct, and the need of the people requesting phones. The final decision is approved by the assembly.

Every phone installed costs the state 1,153 pesos, with more than 900 pesos of that amount being in convertible currency. The new installation charge is 60 pesos, and the telephone itself costs an average of 40 pesos, depending on what type it is. It will be owned by the customer.

[Terre] There is talk of improving international communications, but not much improvement is evident.

[Au] We are not yet in a position to meet the demand for international traffic. To resolve this situation, we are adding a new international exchange, an electronic telegraphic exchange, and a satellite station. In addition, we will have a fiber optic network that will link the main exchanges of the capital.

At the same time, to satisfy the telephone needs of international tourism and to alleviate the congestion of existing networks, five portable satellite stations have been established in Havana, Varadero, Cayo Largo, Santiago de Cuba, and Holguin.

[Terre] Why does it take such a long time to get an answer when you dial 113, 114, or 00? Why is there sometimes no answer at all?

[Au] There are not enough operators, due to the nature of the work, the rotating shifts, the requirement to work on holidays, etc., plus high absenteeism.

The 113 (information) and 114 (complaints) services are also affected by the large number of outages and therefore the heavy volume of calls.

[Terre] Public telephones are in no better shape. How many are there in the capital? What is the average number of service interruptions?

[Au] There are more than 4,500, of which at least 30 percent are frequently out of service because of their exposure to the elements, vandalism, mechanical failures, etc., and because there is no mechanism for finding out immediately whether the coin box is broken.

To improve the service, a Cuban public telephone is being developed and is already in production, to replace those that are in bad condition. A corps of inspectors has been created to check and monitor the coin boxes, and collection is being decentralized to prevent interruptions due to full telephones.

[Terre] There are problems with the raw materials for cable manufacture; nevertheless, it is said that this facility will begin manufacturing in January. Will it really begin on the scheduled date?

[Au] That is being coordinated with the Steelworking Industry (SIME). There are sufficient raw materials for the operating tests and for initial production.

[Terre] What is the current strength of the Claudio Arguelles Contingent and the IV Congress Detachment?

[Au] Claudio Arguelles has 406 comrades, and the IV Congress Detachment has 300. Plus the 600 telephone workers in the capital.

[Terre] After all this talk, will the telephones improve?

Au Kim shrugs his shoulders. "I hope so."

Correction to Castro Anniversary Speech

PA2404150091

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Castro Gives Speech on Bay of Pigs Anniversary," publishe din the 22 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 1-14:

Page 4, column two, third full paragraph, sentences four to five, make read: ...of the special period. We have said that the special period is intended not... (correcting word)

Same page, same paragraph, sentences six to seven, make read: September, on the CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution] anniversary. On that... (adding word)

Same page, same paragraph, last sentence, make read: of the special period is being fulfilled.... (correcting word)

Page 5, column two, paragraph two, sentence two, make read: ...who are still in Babia [used to describe someone who fails to understand something]—I do not where the word Babia comes from, Babylon... (changing word, adding editorial notation)

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

RCA's Second Meeting on Political Union Begins

FL2304134591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1239 GMT 23 Apr 91

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, April 23, CANA—The second sitting of a Regional Constituent Assembly (RCA) debating a proposed Windward Islands political union began here Monday night with impassioned pleas from three political leaders for the proposal to become reality.

St. Lucia Prime Minister John Compton, Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, and former Grenada Prime Minister Ben Jones, in addresses to the opening ceremony, underscored the importance of the union for their three countries and St. Vincent and Grenadines.

"We who are here to take the first step at reunification should look not at the few things which may separate us, but rather at the many things which unite us....." Compton told delegates and invited guests gathered inside the Parliament building. Working sessions of the assembly, which begin Tuesday, are being held at a hotel on the outskirts of the capital, Castries.

Charles said she wanted the islands to seriously consider the benefits to be derived from political union, but noted she was unlikely to be part of its leadership in view of her plans to retire from elective politics. Charles referred to the shortlived West Indies Federation and expressed the view that it would have survived if it had had the benefit of the type of consultation taking place in respect of the current unity proposal. She urged residents of the four islands to seize the opportunity for unity.

Compton said while unification would not increase the limited resources of the four islands, "it will permit us to make better use of these resources, to avoid wastefulness of duplication which we can ill afford." Jones, now an opposition parliamentarian, said the Windward Islands faced "no future" without unity.

Despite the announcement by Scope—the Standing Conference of Popular Democratic Parties of the Eastern Caribbean—that it would attend the meeting after boycotting the first, a noticeable absentee at the opening session was Scope chairman and St. Lucia Labour Party leader Julian Hunte. Representatives of most of the Scope affiliated parties were present. The St. Lucia Labour Party said it was opposed to political union of Windward Islands and would ask its supporters to register disapproval in a planned referendum.

Rainford Agrees Not To Resign as Caricom Officer

FL2304021091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2200 GMT 22 APR 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 22, CANA—Jamaica-born economist Roderick Rainford has postponed plans to quit as Caribbean Community (Caricom)

secretary general in September following pleas from the heads of government, a Secretariat spokesman said Monday.

Ovid Edwards of the Guyana-based Caricom Secretariat's information desk told Canaradio Rainford now planned to leave after the 1992 heads of government conference.

Edwards said Caricom Chairman Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley, speaking for the other heads, had asked Rainford to stay on after reviewing the range of projects currently in train and the impact his planned departure would have. In the meantime, efforts continue to identify a replacement to Rainford.

Dominica

Opposition Accuses Charles Government of Racism

FL1904190491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1447 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 19, CANA—The parliamentary representative for the Carib Indians here is urging the Eugenia Charles government to review its education and health policies, especially in relation to the indigenous people of the island.

Opposition member Worrel Sanford of the Dominica Labour Party on Thursday criticised the government during debate on a motion of no confidence for what he called the negative attitude of the regime to the Carib people.

Sanford accused the government of engaging in deliberate attempts to keep the Carib people down, lamenting the lack of proper basic infrastructure such as running water in the average home. He denounced existing health services in the designated Carib territory as less than adequate, and called for better educational facilities, as well as the teaching of Carib history from "our perspective" in schools in the area.

"After the Caribs did so much to keep colonisers away from Dominica, their reward is to be accused of being cannibals," Sanford said, in reference to the European perspective of history being taught in schools throughout the region.

"The attitude of the government to the Caribs is that of racism," Sanford charged, while pointing to an incident where he said the government had orchestrated the removal of the United States Save the Children Federation office here. That institution was working with the Caribs to provide basic needs which the government was unable to, Sanford said, but the government had seen it fit to kick them out.

He rejected the official excuse given a few years ago that Save the Children had pulled out because of a lack of funds, suggesting instead that they had been forced to leave at the insistence of Prime Minister Charles. Sanford also denounced the administration for refusing the help of an American couple who volunteered to assist in the education of the Caribs.

The government's education policy was also criticised by opposition member Gertrude Roberts of the United Workers Party, who called for an education act or a code of conduct for teachers, and an evaluation of the adult education programme. Roberts said that the teaching service was too heavily dependent on substitute teachers rather than trained personnel, citing a case in which she said a school with 18 teachers had 10 substitutes.

The motion of no confidence against the government was defeated 11 to 10 after two days of debate ending late Thursday afternoon. The motion brought by opposition leader Edison James charged that the people were dissatisfied with the government, a charge Charles said the opposition failed to prove.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer To Attend Presidential Summit in Mexico

FL2304204591 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The president of the Republic plans to travel to Mexico in July to attend a hemispheric summit for heads of state. Dr. Joaquin Balaguer has been specially invited by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to the meeting of Latin American presidents. Yesterday at midday, the head of state met in his office in the National Palace with Mr. (Alfredo del Maso Gonzalez), the Mexican president's personal envoy.

When he left the president's office, the Mexican envoy said that the invitation had been well received by Dr. Balaguer, who had promised to accept the invitation from Dr. Salinas de Gortari. The presidential summit will be held with the attendance of the presidents of Spain and Portugal, in order to bring together all Ibero-American heads of state. Dr. Joaquin Balaguer's visit to Mexico will depend on the demands of his high office and the situation prevailing in this country at the time of the meeting.

Haiti

'No Prospect of Improvement' in U.S. Relations

FL2304231091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] According to the weekly HAITI-OBSERVATEUR, there is no prospect of improvement in relations between Washington and the Aristide government. On the contrary, everything seems to indicate that those relations will only get worse as the weeks go by. The newspaper cites as proof the presence this week in Washington of Ambassador Alvin Adams.

HAITI-OBSERVATEUR summarizes the stiffening toward Aristide in relation to economic assistance. Even if an increase in aid is approved, it does not mean that the funds would be granted to a hostile government. The newspaper cites some prominent personalities of the American establishment.

Aside from rumors that the Aristide-Preval government might declare Alvin Adams persona non grata and expel him from the country, the current events which occurred in the country only destroyed the recent arguments of those in the American establishment who still hoped for a reversal in Port-au-Prince.

The request for an internal loan, peppered with threats, and demonstrations of solidarity with Aristide degenerated into uprooting operations against businessmen. According to HAITI-OBSERVATEUR these are strikes against those who insist on a fair chance for the current Haitian regime.

The newspaper notes at last that the pessimism the Aristide government inspires in Washington, also pervades the U.S. Congress and State Department.

Aristide Meets Hyppolite Market Fire Victims

FL2404010291 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpts] On Monday, 22 April, the president of the country, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and several members of the ministerial cabinet met at the National Palace with the merchants of the Hyppolite Market which has burnt on the night of Tuesday 16 to 17 April. The merchants took advantage of this meeting to present their demands to the president.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified merchant] I come here to draw the attention of the prime minister and the commerce minister to the question of the TCA [Tax on Turnover] because the TCA...[changes thought] When a seller, a poor woman, finds some money, it is very hard to pay 40 percent [of it] as TCA, and to buy one dollar at 40 percent. [passage omitted]

Do you remember that under the deposed government, under the Duvalier government, we used to pay $5 as departure tax. The $5 tax was raised to $10. The $10 [tax] was raised to $15. It reached $25 under Mrs. Ertha [Pascal-Trouillot]. Up to now, we were paying $25, and besides the $25, there was another $6 that they made us pay. [passage omitted]

Secondly, concerning tickets that we used to buy, we remember that in '80, '84, '85, we used to pay $6, $9 as tax on tickets. Now it is raised to $56, that we are still paying as ticket tax. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The president announced that all small merchants who had lost their goods in the Hyppolite Market would receive exemption from customs duties in order to improve their conditions. The president also related a conversation with the governor of the Central Bank during which it was agreed to lower the rate of the U.S. dollar to help the small merchants buy the dollar at lower prices.

On 23 April the cabinet will meet to lower the taxes for which the small merchants are paying a great deal of money to the Customs Service, and to take adequate measures to improve the security problem. The president said that there have been many plots hatched to overthrow the government [by] setting fire to many places. He will therefore meet with General Abraham on 22 April to confront him with his responsibilities.

[Begin recording] [President Aristide] The plot that burnt down the Hyppolite Market is exactly the same plot in which important and simple personages of all kinds are involved. We have taken steps since the day the market was burnt. There are people who we have restricted with the law; it is difficult for them to budge. There are others who we have arrested under the law; they are in jail. There are others who would like to go further in spite of everything.

That is why General Abraham will come to us at 3 o'clock [1900 GMT] so we can talk to him face-to-face regarding the responsibility for the arson plots which have been hatched. [Applause] [passage omitted]

It is certain that General Abraham has his own information. We who have had reliable information that permitted us to limit the damages, that permitted us to prevent Minoterie [national flour company] from being burnt the other day, we who have had reliable information that permitted us to put behind bars men who were about to launch a coup-d'etat, it is important that we meet with the head of the Army so that he can assume his responsibilities properly. [end recording]

Preval Addresses Cap-Haitien Citizens Groups

FL2304020991 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Report by Cap-Haitien correspondent Fred Damas]

[Excerpts] According to a statement by Prime Minister Rene Preval on April 20 at the Philippe Guerrier High School, in the presence of several representatives of Cap-Haitien citizens groups, the rumor that these groups were responsible for the lootings and uprootings of 15 April is not true. This statement was made in the context of the investigation the prime minister came to Cap-Haitien to conduct.

The prime minister said he finds these Cap-Haitien organizations extremely responsible, organized, and aware not only of the delicacy of the situation, but of the danger that threatened the 16 December and 7 February events. The prime minister, who admitted that he does not know what sector is responsible for the incidents, asserted that the citizens groups in Cap-Haitien have nothing, absolutely nothing, to do with the disorders that occurred in Cap-Haitian last Monday when 10 people were injured, and several warehouses, two stores, and one hotel were looted while the people demonstrated against the high cost of living. [passage omitted]

What measures does the government plan to take in order to lower the prices of food products on the market? Prime Minister Rene Preval said that it is food which will lower the prices of food. A great quantity of rice will be ordered soon. When the shopkeepers place an order, the government will have a spare stock so that they can afford to impose a price on all products including rice.

cement, oil, and all other essential food products. The government already has funds available for this purpose, and has already begun to place orders.

The prime minister pointed out, however, that even though food prices will decline, the prices will never be low enough for everyone to be able to afford them due to the serious unemployment problem in the country and the fact that the U.S. dollar is very expensive. So, according to the minister, food prices will never decline enough for people without money to buy them.

The prime minister explained, on the subject of public administration reforms, that those in his government cannot make reforms for Cap-Haitien from Port-au-Prince. This practice, he declared, is neither democratic nor practicable. Minister Rene Preval said that it is those people who are on the spot and who know the people that must make the reforms. The minister said that although the Constitution has given the national government the right to choose the departmental delegates, it prefers to address the people in the departments so they can make proposals. Concerning the choice of the delegate, the prime minister added that this delegate cannot be just anyone because he is meant to be the representative of the executive on location. He must be someone who can initiate negotiations with all other sectors, including the Army, church, the popular sectors, businessmen, and so on.

Concerning the blackout problem that Cap-Haitien has been facing for several months, Minister Preval said that it is the public works minister who is in charge of EDH [Electricity of Haiti]. He said he does not know, therefore, exactly what Cap-Haitian's problem is, whether it is a motor problem or a gas problem. He said that if it is a gas problem, it will be solved as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Groups Call For Response to Destabilization

MOP Wants 'Quick' Action'

FL2204224591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19

[Text] The Haitian democratic party, the Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP], has also commented on the matter [of recent violence] in a message published 19 April. The party advises that it is important for there to be a quick, concerted action among all political partners to counter acts of the nation's enemies to avoid the disillusionment of the people who unknowingly demonstrate in favor of the enemies' claims. The MOP says that it is not willing to relive the experiences of 14 June 1957 [as heard].

The MOP launches a call to all MOP followers and all true democrats to maintain a constant vigilance and it cautions them to avoid encouraging the chameleons in their destabilization maneuvers. It asks that they implore the Parliament not to seek confrontation with the executive. It is the head of state who embodies the hope of revolutionary trends, the MOP adds.

The MOP urges the government to lend an attentive ear to the popular and democratic sectors who hope for a power close to what they call the avalanche trend [kouran lavalasyen an]. The MOP adds that as far as it is concerned, the avalanche is close at hand. The rooster must not lie in a pool of blood, and Haiti must not miss this historical opportunity.

Jean-Max Andre, assistant secretary-general, signed this statement for the MOP.

Peasants Blame 'Imperialism'

FL2304220091 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Solidarity groups among little Haitian peasants [Tet Kole Ti Paysan Haitien] advises that these days some sectors have an interest in hurting the people. What sectors are they? Such a question makes us, the little peasants, think hard. It is clear that the macoutes' hands are deep in this activity. Are the macoutes, however, acting in isolation? What role does imperialism play in these events? Are there not rich people who are in agreement with imperialism, and therefore the macoutes, acting undercover, Tet Kole asks.

The following are points on which the people should concentrate during these times: It is the attitude and position of several political parties and so-called political leaders, who are taking a free ride on the events in which only the masses suffer, to create even more confusion among the people in order to deal with their personal matters at the people's expense.

Some parties assert that there was more freedom under the Duvalier regime than there is now, and that no one is now free to speak. Some attribute all difficulties that the country is facing to the government. Others make believe that the people are creating a division between the executive and the Parliament.

All this confusion is meant to thwart the mobilization of the masses. They are all filling the same role as enemy of the people; they are part of imperialism's global strategy, acting as its servants in the country in order to block the struggle of the people. They are trying to shut the people's mouths and tie their feet in an effort to prevent them from fighting to the end to satisfy the popular demands.

In this sense, it is certain that they are sending agents to infiltrate the masses and the popular organizations to sow confusion in popular matters. They find ways to accuse and blame the people. We in Tet Kole believe it is important that everyone, including those in influential sectors, open their eyes in order to distinguish between infiltration and the natural expression of the people's demands and feelings.

MRN Wants Preval's Resignation

FL2304223091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 22 Apr 91

[Text] The National Reconstruction Movement [MRN] says the situation is grave. The movement, and all

clear-headed Haitians, are worried by the events presently unfolding in the country. The government, whose mission it is to reform the institutions and make them effective and credible and to restore the state's authority and the people's confidence, has preferred to appeal to the mobilization of its partisans to try to solve the problems which are rather the concern of the administration. Such an attitude only creates diversions.

The plundering, the break-ins, the fires, and the damage to the properties of several shopkeepers in Cap-Haitien as well as in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and the social hatred sown in the country in this instance are the consequences of a number of irresponsible attitudes, says the MRN.

Nothing can be accomplished in confusion and terror, it says. It moreover laments the fact that the president, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, defaults in his administrative responsibility instead of preserving his legitimacy as head of state by correcting the government's deviations from national law and interests. According to the MRN, the national interest includes restoration of public authority and strict respect for legality, political stability, confidence of all citizens, or an atmosphere favoring remedial economics and the beginnings of solutions to the many problems that are overwhelming the society.

According to the MRN, if the government of Rene Preval deserves credit for having considerably reduced the grave security problem in Haiti, especially in Port-au-Prince, it has unfortunately failed in all other fields, such as the area related to application of a sane policy to open perspectives and reassure the citizens who themselves desire progress in this country.

The MRN therefore thinks that President Aristide would have adequate reason for the dismissal of the current government and replacement of it with one that will be able to carry out a program of social redress and justice in Haiti. This opinion of the MRN refers to the situation that occurred last week.

Minoterie Village Burned; Macoute Slogans Scrawled

FL2404012591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Yesterday individuals partially burned two houses in the Minoterie village [national flour mill] and wrote pro-macoute slogans on the walls of the village. More details from the director of the Minoterie.

[Begin recording] [Director] This village is occupied by about 60 percent of the workers of the factory. Some individuals came and set fire to two houses and wrote on a wall, "Up with Macoutes; down with Titide," before leaving. It seemed that they fled to a house located a little way from the housing estate, in the woods close by. They had time to escape. [passage omitted]

The houses are partially burnt. Activities are back to normal today although we are all on the alert since other incidents occured last week. Security measures are reinforced. [end recording]

Committee Urges Homage to Victims of Dictatorships

FL2404014291 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The Fort-Dimanche Committee asks the government and the Parliament to take steps to make 26 April the National Day Against Repression. A press release sent to us recalls 26 April 1963 as a date the Haitian people cannot forget. On that day, many innocent people were shot down by Duvalier assassins and Macoutes. Civilians as well as military men were killed in the streets, their houses burnt in Fort-au-Dimanche and elsewhere.

On 26 April 1986 the people mobilized to pay homage to all victims who had fallen during the 30 years of dictatorship; the Army shot at them; many young fighters including Fred Coriolan, Jackson Wol [name as heard], and Wilson Auguste were killed.

For 26 April 1991, the Fort-Dimanche Committee and other organizations and regional committees had planned to provide grand exhibitions in Fort-Dimanche. The Committee apologizes to the public, to the people: the exhibition cannot be held because of the condition of the Fort-Dimanche grounds, which have not yet been cleaned, and which has no protection for the pictures and documents.

The Committee takes this opportunity to thank all parents, relatives, and friends of victims who brought pictures and evidence for the exhibition, and asks them to continue bringing pictures to City Hall where it has an office for that purpose.

On behalf of all victims and militants who fell in the struggle against dictatorship, the Fort-Dimanche Committee forcefully asks the government and Parliament to take all necessary steps to make 26 April a National Day Against Repression.

Foreign Secretary on Cooperation With USSR

PA2404033591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0021 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Apr (NOTIMEX)—To strengthen the sovereignty of the country, we must strengthen the economy, and therefore the measures adopted by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari are intended to make the Mexican economy one of the most solid and organized economies.

The aforementioned statement was made by Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales when he met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Solana Morales also said that the possible free trade treaty among Mexico, the United States, and Canada is intended to broaden the markets for the national economy, increase employment, and export merchandise, not labor.

The foreign secretary emphasized to President Gorbachev the need to consider the possibility of negotiating an agreement that will allow broadening relations between Mexico and the USSR. The Mexican diplomat pointed out that there is room for cooperation and reciprocal benefit between Mexico and the USSR, besides, the conditions are appropriate for a new dialogue.

Upon conveying to Mikhail Gorbachev a message of greetings from President Salinas de Gortari, Solana emphasized Mexico's interest in the reform process in the USSR.

Meanwhile, Mikhail Gorbachev voiced hope that the Mexican president will visit the USSR to promote bilateral relations.

The Soviet president emphasized the various topics to be discussed with his Mexican counterpart, and he noted that the USSR and Mexico have a long history of friendship and cooperation.

Solana Morales also met with USSR deputies and Latin American experts.

The foreign secretary will tomorrow begin an official visit to Czechoslovakia.

Salinas Free Trade Tour Provokes 'Arguments'

PA1904182091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1618 GMT 16 Apr 91

[By Francisco Osaba]

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Apr (EFE)—The future of the Free Trade Agreement (TLC) between the United States, Canada, and Mexico has provoked arguments in Mexico that have been voiced by the press, political groups, and the trade unions in the nation.

Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari last week carried out a heavy work agenda in Canada and five U.S. cities, meeting with President George Bush to promote the treaty and diminish criticism of the project.

Political circles and the press in Mexico City are divided in their opinions today concerning the trip by Salinas, who returned on 15 April, and they argue whether the trip was a success or a failure.

An article by columnist Raymundo Riva Palacio in the morning EL FINANCIERO analyzes the tour and points out that the Mexican Government is concerned about the future of the TLC "more than it publicly admits." After reading the article, one may conclude that the trip was actually a crusade of public relations with the business and political groups in Canada and the United States.

Other Mexico City newspapers such as LA JORNADA, EL DIA, and EL HERALDO agree in emphasizing the "political risk" that the Mexican president took in promoting the most important project of his government.

"Salinas traveled to convince the Americans and their politicians of the benefits of a trade agreement between Mexico and the United States, because they are the ones who can contaminate the negotiations with their party and group opposition," said the press.

EL FINANCIERO explained that if the TLC fails, it will not reflect on the political life of the United States, but the defeat will be attributed to the Mexican president, who considers its success a personal project.

Official talks will be held next summer on the implementation of the TLC, which, if successful, will create a Mexican and U.S. free trade zone of 300 million people that will be later joined by 30 million Canadians.

Joaquin Lopez Doriga, another Mexican journalist, has stated in his political column in EL HERALDO DE MEXICO that the U.S. Congress is divided in its opinion about Mexican participation in the proposed trilateral agreement. In the Senate, he says, there are 33 senators who favor a fast solution of the matter, 23 who are against it, 17 who are undecided, 15 who might support it, and another 11 who might contest it. In the House, he adds, there are 116 congressmen who favor the treaty, 46 who are against it, 88 who like it but are still undecided, and 66 who are inclined to reject it but have still not formalized their position.

The Mexican Congess is not clear about the matter either, but it is believed that when the time comes at least 90 percent of its members will vote in favor of the treaty.

Luis Anderson, the secretary general of the Regional Inter-American Workers Organization [Organizacion Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores] (ORIT), told foreign correspondents in Mexico on 15 April that the TLC "is detrimental because it devalues the workers' labor power." The representative of 35 million workers pointed out that Latin America does not have the raw material or the technology to enter into a commercial agreement. He stressed that, before signing the treaty, "Mexico must form a block within Latin America to negotiate it jointly."

Several political and economic observers are of the opinion that this idea is not wrong because, if a TLC agreement is to be successful, it should be established under President Bush's "Enterprise for the Americas" initiative, which fosters a union of North and South

America before the year 2000 and whioch will form the most powerful common market in the world.

PRD Leader on Trade Treaty

PA2304022991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1816 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Montreal, 18 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, leader of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] opposition party, today said here that the trilateral agreement with the United States and Canada "is lacking, because Mexico will only contribute cheap labor."

The PRD leader, who is touring several Canadian cities, said that the goal of his trip is to exchange points of view on common problems with opposition political sectors, labor unions, social groups, and authorities.

In Montreal—the last leg of this three-day tour in Canada—Cardenas was interviewed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), where he reiterated that the trilateral free trade treaty that Mexico is trying to negotiate with the United States and Canada "is lacking."

During John Kalinda's "Morning Side" radio program Cardenas said that this kind of trade treaty should include several aspects which have not been addressed. The PRD leader stated that the following issues should be analyzed: the Mexican foreign debt, as "it is a heavy load for the economy, a bill of rights that protects the workers of the three nations, and the flow of the labor force."

Cardenas said that this last issue, the flow of the labor force, "will be a difficult issue to negotiate between the United States and Mexico."

With regard to trade agreement perspectives, Cardenas said that Mexico and Canada "have a powerful neighbor and if a trade agreement is signed, this would improve their relationship with the United States."

Cardenas also said that if the U.S. Congress authorizes President George Bush to use the fast track to pass the treaty with Mexico, "Canada will also participate in the negotiations."

Cardenas stated that his party supports "a broader treaty that not only includes trade issues but also improves social conditions, as well as supports sustained economic development in Latin America."

The PRD leader met today with the Quebec Coalition—comprised of labor unions, nongovernmental organizations, and academic groups—on the trilateral negotiations.

* Views on FTA, Foreign Observers Surveyed

91CA0104A Mexico City NEXOS in Spanish No 159, Mar 91 'Cuaderno de NEXOS' supplement pp X-XI

[NEXOS Survey Corner: "Who's Afraid of Free Trade?"]

[Text] A possible Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the United States, Mexico, and Canada still enjoys strong support among the people in the Mexico City Metropolitan Area (ZMCM), the latest NEXOS-Professional Opinion poll reveals. The poll was conducted on 9 and 10 February in the streets of the ZMCM.

Whereas in May of last year 59 percent of the respondents said they agreed with an FTA between Mexico and the United States (Survey Corner, Cuaderno de NEXOS 149 [issue number as published; no report on poll appeared in this issue. Reference to 149 was apparently a NEXOS editorial error and should have been to issue No. 151. For text of this report, see the 19 Sep 90 Latin America DAILY REPORT, pp 6-7]), 50 percent are now in favor of one. The reason for the almost 10 percent decline in support is unclear, although people have probably been influenced by the debate that the FTA has prompted.

Lifting tariffs and obstacles to trade between two countries is called a "Free Trade Agreement." Would you be for or against such an agreement between the Mexico and the United States?

Response	National Survey July 1990	FTA February 1991
For	54.7	49.5
Against	30.7	26.7
Makes no difference	8.5	11.3
Not sure	6.1	12.5

A similar majority feels that the FTA should be trilateral, covering Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

There is already a Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Canada. Do you think that this Free Trade Agreement should be extended to Mexico?

Answer	Percent
Should be extended	50.0
Should not be extended	27.6
Not sure	22.4

Although a majority of the population is in favor of the FTA, they also feel that the main beneficiary of the treaty would be the United States.

If there were an FTA between the United States and Mexico, in which Canada would also take part, who do you think would benefit the most?

Answer	Percent
United States	52.2
Everyone	17.0
Mexico	9.3
Canada	7.9
Both	4.9
Not sure	6.7

Although very few respondents feel that Mexico would benefit the most, half of them are of the opinion that the FTA would be good for Mexico; this expectation is qualified by the 21.8 percent who were uncertain.

Based on what you know, do you think that an FTA is good or bad for Mexico?

Answer	Percent
Good	52.0
Bad	26.3
Not sure	21.8

International Monitoring of Elections

The same poll revealed that although opposition parties and political commentators have proposed that foreigners or international agencies monitor our elections to prevent fraud, most people do not agree with such monitoring, even less so if it is made a requirement for the signing of the FTA.

Some people think that elections in Mexico ought to be monitored by foreigners. Do you agree or disagree with such monitoring?

Answer	Percent
Disagree	71.6
Agree	14.1
Not sure	14.4

Eighty-three percent of those who are against such monitoring cite as their main reason that our elections ought to be overseen by Mexicans.

Some American politicians want to make monitoring of Mexico's elections a requirement for the signing of the FTA. Do you agree or disagree with such a requirement?

Answer	Percent
Disagree	79.2
Agree	11.3
Not sure	9.5

How the Poll Was Conducted

The NEXOS-Professional Opinion poll was based on 1,000 interviews of individuals who were walking down the street by spots that were randomly selected on a map of the ZMCM, including areas with very different socioeconomic levels. Although totally probabilistic criteria for selecting the respondents were not, strictly speaking, observed, the opinions of individuals of different ages and both sexes were encompassed by assigning quotas to the pollsters based on the most recent demographic data on the ZMCM from the National Institute of Statistics, Geography, and Informatics and the National Population Council.

Foreign Ministry Official Concludes Area Tour

PA2104235091 Guatemala City LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] According to a press communique issued by the Mexican Embassy in Guatemala City, the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat has announced that a meeting was held between Ambassador Sergio Gonzalez Galvez, deputy secretary "A" of the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat, and President Jorge Serrano Elias and Foreign Minister Alvaro Arzu at the end of a brief working tour through Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala, which had the following basic goals:

1. To follow-up on all agreements signed with the Central American countries since the beginning of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's administration.

2. To evaluate bilateral relations with each of the Central American countries.

3. To reiterate the Mexican Government's decision to support, whenever required, national conciliation efforts. In this regard, support was stressed for the talks taking place in Mexico City between Salvadoran Government and FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] representatives and the upcoming negotiations between Guatemalan Government and the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] representatives in Mexico on 24-25 April.

4. To evaluate the steps that can be adopted to expedite implementation of the Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas summit agreement.

Joint review of the status of Mexican cooperation with Central America and the evaluation of results obtained so far, as well as the determination of specific new actions, took place amid an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding, according to what Deputy Secretary Sergio Gonzalez Galvez was able to determine.

The meetings held by the Mexican official with Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias, and other high-ranking area officials served to acknowledge the level of cordiality and friendliness that characterizes the relations of the Central American countries with Mexico.

Costa Rica

Calderon News Conference on Relief Effort

PA2404032691 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0102 GMT 24 Apr 91

[News conference, with a 10-minute opening statement by President Rafael Angel Calderon, with unidentified reporters; at the presidential palace—live]

[Text] Tonight we will again take a few minutes of your time, dear listeners, to give a detailed account of all the reports the government has received, what we have seen, the versions we have heard. I also wish to request your help because I think all of us should assist, as best we can, our brothers and fellow Costa Ricans, who are experiencing extremely serious difficulties.

As I told you yesterday, we were offered helicopters for delivery today, which would allow us to complete the first stage of an effort primarily oriented to save lives. We needed helicopters. And they arrived from Nicaragua and the United Nations early in the morning. Several helicopters from Honduras and several U.S. planes have arrived. With these aircraft, we are able to continue the airlift that started last night. We have already transferred 150 critical patients to San Jose hospitals. These patients were not necessarily affected by the earthquake and had been hospitalized previously. Since they were unable to receive the necessary care in Limon, they were transferred to San Jose. The good news is that, after visiting the Limon hospital this morning with structural engineers of the Social Security Fund, we found the structure intact. The Limon hospital will be operating very soon. Several wards are ready to be used. It will not be necessary to bring the field hospital that the United States prepared. We will be able to work in the Tony Fallas hospital.

I wish to express recognition to all of the medical and paramedical personnel of the Social Security Fund, who have worked particularly hard. I was with them. They had erected tents right on the hospital grounds and were making the preparations to transfer the people coming from rural areas to San Jose later. The other serious problem in the region was a power outage. ICE [Costa Rican Institute of Electricity] worked all night. Power had been restored in most of the city of Limon by noon today. This permitted us to immediately test the local drinking water system, left dry by the earthquake. I toured several barrios, such as Cristobal Colon, Pueblo Nuevo, Small Golfito, Cemaco, and Colina and talked to the people, all of whom are in a terrible situation. Many have lost their homes. The water system was tested. Half of the population in the city of Limon will get drinking water tomorrow afternoon. The drinking water is taken to the city in two large-diameter pipes. One of them is badly ruptured in 13 places and the other in 15. The Water and Sanitation Institute is already working on this problem. I repeat, I hope half of the city of Limon will get water tomorrow afternoon. The rest will receive drinking water in the next few days.

You might be wondering what has happened regarding fuel. I also visited the refinery with the minister of energy and the Recope [Costa Rican Oil Refinery] president. Thank God, we have good news. We will not be refining crude oil for a couple of months, but we will have enough refined fuel, gasoline, and diesel to last for the next 25 days. A ship will arrive with fuel at 0600 tomorrow morning. I have good news that the oil pipeline is operating properly again. There will be no problems. We have fuel for the next 25 days and, of course, we are doing what we can to ensure a continuing and normal fuel supply. In addition, two Venezuelan technicians dispatched by President Carlos Andres Perez have already examined the refinery and given us the Venezuelan Government's technical assistance and cooperation.

The basic problem I have seen among the people is food. There is a serious food problem. We have to take food to them. The problem in the city of Limon is serious, but it is much more serious in the rural areas of Limon where a large number of people are isolated, living in soccer fields. They are completely isolated from the rest of the nation. With the helicopters, which were first used to save lives, we are now going to send food. I am very grateful to a number of companies in the nation which have begun to make donations. The government has taken steps and has already allocated the first 50 million colones to buy staples from the National Production Council. We have more than 20,000 meals ready to be sent to Limon. We will begin to send them today and continue to do so in the following days.

We have also received offers for canned food from friendly countries such as Venezuela, Mexico, and Argentina. But we cannot expect the entire relief effort to come from abroad while Costa Ricans are not contributing anything. The Red Cross offices are ready to receive canned food, milk, and juices so they can be taken to our brothers in Limon through the National Emergency Commission. You can take your donations to the Red Cross offices. I think everyone is duty bound to give what they can.

Regarding the situation of the ports, fortunately they have not been damaged. This is good because it permits exports and imports. The serious situation involves the roads. Our roads and bridges have been affected as never before in our history. The situation is very grave and delicate. Tonight I want to express recognition to all the deputies in the Legislative Assembly. They have done something extraordinary. All the deputies from all parties have united to help our people. Today they approved a $60-million loan the government had negotiated with the World Bank. Seeing that the bill was already at the Assembly, the deputies eliminated all the procedures, passed it in the first debate today, and plan to definitely approve it tomorrow or the next day. This loan is specifically for road repair. This will obviously be used in the Atlantic coast region. After an inspection by the public works and transport minister, I also received the good news today that it is very likely that the highway to the port of Limon will be reopened, even if in a restricted

manner, next week. This will permit us to normalize our exports. In short, there has been cooperation among all Costa Ricans. This should make all Costa Ricans very happy to see that we can unite in hard times and that together we can overcome any problem. Let us pray to God that we continue in this manner and let us pray that we do not again have to face such an earthquake again in our country. I want to express recognition to all those who have provided their aid and cooperation, and I want to tell them that the people of Limon need them. The people of Limon need everyone's friendly hand. They need the hand of their brothers. I hope no Costa Rican will refuse to provide aid to our Limon brothers. Thank you.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] canned foods from Venezuela, Mexico, and Argentina as well as from other countries [words indistinct]?

[Calderon] Yes [words indistinct]. We are requesting the cooperation of U.S. military engineers for the reconstruction, in addition to a long list of medicine. We are requesting this cooperation in the medium-term [words indistinct]. I have already talked to President Carlos Andres Perez and I am supposed to talk to President Salinas on the telephone shortly. We have also requested cooperation from the World Bank so that it can approve a credit increase for road repair. This way other areas of the country that require highway investment will not be affected. From the help already received, we should mention the helicopters received from Nicaragua, as well as those from the United Nations, which have been invaluable.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] what is the real danger [words indistinct]?

[Calderon] At this time, I hear people talk about big numbers. However, I only received confirmation of 10 dead and 150 injured or sick who had to be transferred to the capital. They are already in hospitals in San Jose. Regarding the outbreak of an epidemic, it is logical that if we do not quickly restore potable water service in the affected area, it is likely that we will have a series of health problems. It is very unlikely that a cholera epidemic will begin, because the virus has not yet arrived in Costa Rica. But we may get other kinds of epidemics, which we have been trying to prevent from the outset.

[Reporter] In addition to the 50 million colones that will be destined for food supplies, what other resources will be used when the emergency commission has said [words indistinct]?

[Calderon] At this time, the Housing Ministry has already planned the construction of 1,100 houses in Pacuare and 1,000 houses in Limon Dos Mil, for a total of 3,100 [as heard] housing units. In addition, the Housing Ministry will issue the bonds that are necessary to obtain funds for the people who have their own land and have lost their homes in downtown Limon. We are also preparing for the housing project that we will have to undertake in the cantons of Matina, one of the hardest hit areas, and Talamanca. The government has resources to undertake these projects, because it had planned to carry them out in Limon anyway. Most of the $60 million approved today by the Legislative Assembly will be destined for the rehabilitation of all bridges and roads in the Atlantic region. We should recall that, apart from the fact that we cannot leave the Limon residents isolated, this network of roads is important when it comes to export possibilities. Eighty percent of our exports go through the Atlantic region.

[Reporter] What are your activities for tomorrow? I understand you will again visit the affected area tomorrow.

[Calderon] Yes. Tomorrow I will visit the area of Batan and Matina. I did not visit Matina today, although the government and agriculture ministers visited it on my behalf.

Perez Postpones Trip; Calderon Cancels Visit

PA2304194191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 23 APR 91

[Text] San Jose, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has suspended his scheduled visit to Costa Rica in light of yesterday's earthquake that shook the Central American Caribbean coast, leaving behind dozens of dead and hundreds of injured in this country and Panama.

Perez was scheduled to arrive at 2400 GMT to negotiate a free trade treaty and some cooperation projects on housing, electric power, and education with Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon.

The visit was postponed given that Costa Rica authorities will be involved in emergency operations to help the thousands of homeless on the Caribbean coast where the earthquake registered 7.4 on the Richter scale, causing significant damage to homes, roads, and buildings. Official Costa Rican sources said that, for this same reason, President Calderon will not be able to attend the Central American agricultural summit scheduled for this weekend in Panama.

Costa Rican Government officials today traveled to the region where all the rescue and relief efforts to aid the earthquake victims and the homeless will be coordinated.

El Salvador

FMLN Turns Down Political Parties' Proposal

PA2304221791 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1955 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Apr (DPA)—The Salvadoran guerrillas today turned down a proposal on limited constitutional reform presented yesterday by deputies of four parties during the peace negotiations with the government of Alfredo Cristiani being held in Mexico City.

Miguel Saenz, member of the guerrillas' political-diplomatic commission, said: "The parties' proposal coincides with that of the government and in many

instances falls short of it. In truth, this proposal is intended to support the government's stand and isolate the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]."

Without specifying the coincidences between the deputies' proposal and the government's stand or their differences with the FMLN proposal, the rebel leader said that the parties' proposal is "negative" and that it "does not contribute toward eliminating the stagnation in the negotiations."

The delegation of 12 deputies of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, the Christian Democratic Party, the National Conciliation Party, and the Authentic Christian Movement met yesterday with FMLN and government delegates, who have been meeting in Mexico City since 4 April.

Saenz said that the government delegates have not yet expressed an opinion on the "package" of constitutional reforms and the mechanisms for approving them proposed by the rebel delegation to "disentangle" the negotiations.

The FMLN wants the approval of a "temporary" mechanism that could later allow for the introduction of constitutional reforms once they are agreed upon at the negotiating table in view of the fact that no agreement has been reached to make such changes during the current legislature.

The reforms are governed by Article 248, which stipulates that any change must be approved by one legislature and ratified by the other. The government refuses to discuss reforms during the current legislature, the term of which will conclude at the end of April.

"We do not want a blank check, but we do want assurance that the changes will be true reforms and not just cosmetic changes," Saenz said. He insisted that the FMLN does not want "changes for the sake of changes," but to modify the political, legal, social, and economic causes of the war.

Finally, Saenz said that the talks could be extended for several more days. Diplomatic sources close to the negotiations, however, have pointed out that the conversations will end in a few hours with limited agreements, including the indefinite postponement of a cease-fire.

FMLN Reports Arresting 2 Arena Members

PA2304190291 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Communique issued by the Modesto Ramirez Central Front of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in Chalatenango Department on 22 April]

[Text] The FMLN Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, Chalatenango sector, advises that:

1. Miguel Angel Vasquez, Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] candidate for mayor of San Ignacio, Chalatenango, in the past elections, and Justice of the Peace Manuel de Jesus Villegas were arrested at 0600 on 21 April. The two men are in our hands and we are investigating charges presented against them.

2. A 9-mm pistol [nine-second break in reception] handgun. A .38-caliber special revolver and 38 rounds of ammunition were found on Miguel Angel Vasquez.

4. [number as heard] These men were negotiating the establishment of a Treasury Police military post in San Ignacio. This was being done against the will of the people.

5. The FMLN will study the charges presented against these two men and determine the type of punishment they should receive for their crime against the people. Chalatenango, 22 April 1991.

Guatemala

Government To Present Peace Plan to Guerrillas

PA2404010291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2254 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Caracas, 23 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan Government will present to the guerrillas a plan to attain "full and definitive peace," Haroldo Rodas, deputy Guatemalan foreign minister, said here today. The diplomat, who is attending the Latin American Economic System meeting being held in Caracas, made known the text of the proposal, which lays out the aspiration of the Guatemalan people to pacify Central America.

Initially, the document stresses termination of the armed struggle, which implies suspending insurgent activity, disabling the mechanisms of subversion, and suppressing counterinsurgency operations. The second point in the document stresses a greater social and economic balance through several governmental reforms to overcome the extreme poverty and destitution in which a majority of the Guatemalan people live. The third point of the proposal that, according to Rodas, addresses reconciliation and harmonious coexistence of the Guatemalan family, points out the need to strengthen the legal status that should govern the entire population. Finally, the proposal highlights the expansion of the democratic process through the decentralization of the administration and by reinforcing municipal governments.

Should the rebels accept the government's plan, peace would be attained in Guatemala after 30 years of fighting that has killed at least 25,000 Guatemalans, according to the proposal.

Commission To Investigate 'Disappeared' Persons

PA2404034891 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2207 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Ramiro De Leon Carpio, human rights attorney general, announced today the creation of an independent commission to investigate the whereabouts of 40,000 persons

who were disappeared for political reasons, as has been demanded by the Mutual Support Group (GAM).

De Leon Carpio said that the commission will initially consist of himself and the two deputy human rights attorneys. He added that the Bar Association, the Catholic and Evangelical Churches, the United Nations, and nongovernment organizations will be invited to send representatives to the commission.

De Leon Carpio stated that he has corroborated the lack of political willingness by President Jorge Serrano to investigate human rights cases in Guatemala. He pointed out that the relations between the president and the Human Rights Attorney General's Office have cooled as a result of the reports about repression.

The human rights attorney general noted that "President Serrano has demontrated that he is not keeping his promises in the area of human rights."

De Leon Carpio stressed that the commission will be independent so that it can carry out impartial and objective investigations.

GAM President Nineth de Garcia reported today the existence of 118 clandestine cemeteries in Guatemala, and she asked the human rights attorney general for his cooperation to open up the common graves, where, she said, her relatives could be buried. The GAM president said: "It is not fair that we continue to go from cemetery to cemetery trying to find our loved ones. At least we want to know where they were buried." According to human rights organizations, the practice of making people disappear began in Guatemala in 1966.

Honduras

* 'Scandalous' Military Monopoly Yields Millions

91CA0100A San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Members of the military and government employees are involved in a fantastic business involving millions, monopolizing the activities being carried out by the Merchant Marine. The latter include, in particular, operations for the registration, issuance of certificates, and inspection of ships flying the Honduran flag.

The operations for this business are concentrated at the Miami Consulate in the United States, currently headed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas's cousin, Roberto Antonio Callejas ("Zarco"), with the participation of government employees and officers of the Armed Forces.

This activity began with the creation on 23 October and through executive decree MD-384, of the Republic of Honduras Office of Maritime Security [MSOH] with headquarters in Miami. This office has missions such as overseeing the safety of marine life, controlling and issuing certificates for seamen and naval inspection, regulating and supervising the activities of any inspection or classification company authorized by the state, and hiring inspectors on the international level for the National Merchant Marine.

In addition, the office has among its functions that of issuing technical certificates associated with maritime technical conventions sponsored by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

This office is described as one of a technical administrative security type, attached to the superintendency of the National Merchant Marine. It is managed by a naval officer named by the Armed Forces chief, at the suggestion of the commander in chief of the Naval Forces of Honduras.

According to the third article in the executive decree signed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, the appointed official will have the same diplomatic status as that given to naval attaches assigned abroad.

Thus, Officer Claudio Castillo Torres was named to head the MSOH in Miami; and Second Lieutenant Jorge Colindres Marinakis was designated his assistant.

To reaffirm the activity to be carried out in Miami, the Naval Forces headquarters issued two resolutions. The first, MMN-003-91, issued on 7 February of this year, stipulates that the office created in Miami establishes the geographical areas of the east coast of the United States, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, Singapore, and Korea as exclusive zones for naval inspections and reconnaissance.

At the same time, it prohibits "after this date, the issuance of technical certificates prescribed by the national laws and international conventions to which the State of Honduras is a party, to any inspection and classification companies to which this function has been delegated that are not affiliated with the International Association of Classification Companies (IACC)."

It also cautions that contravention of this resolution will entail definitve action on the part of the general headquarters. The resolution is signed by Capt. Reynaldo Andino Flores.

The second resolution, MMN-004-91, of 7 February, prohibits the issuance of technical certificates prescribed in national laws and international maritime conventions to three companies: Maritime Inspection Corporation, Honduran Maritime Classification and Inspection Office, and R.J. del Pan, until the general headquarters is informed, and there are satisfactory findings from the investigations being conducted of improper conduct in the issuance of technical certificates.

The only office assigned to inspect and supervise Honduran ships in the areas of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, Singapore, Korea, and the east coast of the United States is the MSOH. Furthermore, no other company that is not a member of the International Association of Classification Companies may do so.

It is surprising that the government of the republic authorized a foreign company belonging to the IACC with lightning speed. The largest shipping companies in the world, from countries such as France, Norway, South Korea, the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the United States, Germany, Yugoslavia, India, and Japan, belong to the IACC. It consists of 13 members.

One of them is the Korean Register of Shipping which, through its representative, Enrique Ortez Sequeira, submitted an application to be permitted to operate in shipping affairs.

The request was made on Wednesday, 2 January 1991, and President Callejas authorized it through decree number MD-001 on Monday, 7 January. It was the first decree signed by the chief executive this year. The odd part of it is that other companies seeking registration in the country wait two, three, and even four months.

On this occasion, apparently no heed was given to the opinion of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the General Accounting Office, or the Armed Forces' own Auditing Office, judging from the speed with which the action was taken.

The assistant in the Miami Merchant Marine office, 2d Lt. Jorge Colindres Marinakis, formed a company with Enrique Ortez Sequeira known as Ortez Sequeira, Colindres, and Associates, S. de R.L. [Limited Liability Company]. Its purpose is to "render legal, advisory, and consulting services, and maritime assistance, and prepare feasibility studies in general."

According to the office of the Registrar of Real and Commercial Property, this company "will have its domicile in the city of Tegucigalpa, but may establish branches and open offices anywhere in the republic, as well as abroad."

According to LA GACETA of 18 February 1991, through decree MD-001 the president authorized the Korean Register of Shipping classification company, as representative of the Government of Honduras, to act as a classifier of ships, issuing them the following technical certificates: a) security certificates for ships, b) security certificates for cargo vessel construction, and c) security certificates for cargo vessel radio telegraphy, among others.

One infers from this that Jorge Colindres Marinakis must have recommended that all those requiring service to seek it in the companies in which he is a partner, since they will also have the convenience of the headquarters being located right there in the consulate.

At the beginning of this year, when the president's cousin, Roberto Antonio Callejas, assumed his position, the offices were moved to 340 West Flagles Street, Miami, Florida. Also located there are the premises of the Office of Maritime Security of Honduras, which is managed by Jorge Colindres Marinakis and Claudio Castillo.

Enrique Ortez Sequeira and Jorge Colindres, who represent the Korean Register of Shipping and another company known as the Panama Bureau of Shipping, are also affiliated with the COLPAC [expansion not given] company. The latter's offices are located in the same building shared by the consulate.

The president of the COLPAC company is Peter Swartz, who is also owner of the building, according to reports.

As for the activities being carried out by the consuls in shipping matters, it was explained that they are generally associated with Honduran professionals representing the shipping companies; hence, they will recommend the same firms.

The profits that may be accrued result from the fact that a set of documents for a given ship could cost as much as $15,000, and Honduras apparently has over 2,000 ships.

The decisions made by the naval forces and Merchant Marine exclude Greece, a zone in which, as some knowledgable persons explained, over 50 percent of the ships flying the Honduran flag are registered.

With this decision, there is apparently an interest in not harming a particular consular official assigned to Athens.

If the authorities really want to exercise better control, and supervise the ships sailing with the Honduran flag, then why didn't they include Greece in their provisions? Who is behind this?

In this connection, there should also be an identification of the individuals linked to the Honduras Maritime Inspection Company, whose activity is generally executed in the Greek zone. At first, it was accused of registering Iraqi ships, but later a form letter exonerated it of liability.

Moreover, it was reported that the representatives of the Merchant Marine office in Miami visited the Singapore consulate last weekend, to meet with the new consul appointed to that part of Asia, after sending a note stating that the work was to be assigned to a single company.

TIEMPO attempted to find out the official opinion on these matters at the Merchant Marine, but it was impossible to contact superintendent Reynaldo Flores Ponce, who has not shown up in his offices since last Thursday.

It should be mentioned that in at least 40 countries that have open registration of ships, as does Honduras, the Merchant Marine is controlled by civilians. This is because some of the activities in which it engages are mercantile, and all the revenue accrued presumably must enter the national treasury.

The authorities, headed by the commander in chief of the naval forces, Reynaldo Andino Flores, have promised to resolve all these problems; but thus far there has been no response, according to certain individuals engaged in shipping activities. However, they requested

that their names not be mentioned, for fear of reprisals; because all the companies, about 14, are virtually shut down at present.

* Discua Elvir on Restructuring Police Forces

91CA0100B San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] San Pedro Sula—The entire Public Security Force [FUSEP] will be restructured, so that the Honduran people may have confidence and assurance in the persons protecting the interests of the citizens. This statement was made yesterday by General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, chief of the Armed Forces of Honduras.

He added that, besides the National Directorate of Investigations (DNI), other agencies to be restructured will include the Treasury Police, followed by still others.

The high-ranking military man was asked: "Does this mean that a cleanup of the police has now begun?" "Definitely," he replied.

In statements to the press the FUSEP spokesman, Captain Cesar Augusto Somoza, remarked that the DNI will start to be called the Technical Criminal Investigation Police (PTIC) within the next few days. This follows the top-ranking military meeting held on Tuesday with the heads of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches, at which a draft reform for that branch of police was submitted to them.

Regarding the draft reform for the DNI, Discua Elvir commented: "I have always said that the Armed Forces are a dynamic institution, in constant motion and change. Hence, the restructuring will not be in name only, but also for training, and make the investigative aspect more scientific."

He was also asked about Lieutenant Colonel Aben Claros Mendez's implication in the concealment of the murderers of a family in La Mosquita. He responded: "Yes, I learned about it in the newspapers, and we have already taken up the matter. The FUSEP commander is working on it, and that situation may possibly be clarified today (yesterday), through the news media."

In response to the reporters' insistence that, in view of the crime wave besetting the country, the joint army-police patrolling should be permanent, Gen. Discua Elvir claimed that this was impossible, because the laws must be first amended.

He said that the law does not authorize the Army, Air Force, or Navy to make captures; only the police are empowered to do that. "Therefore, not only will the Public Security Force be restructured, but also the laws as well."

He stressed: "Joint patrolling cannot be permanent, because the police receive special training; they are in direct contact with the people, and the soldier is given different instruction. However, we are making efforts in that direction."

He added that this surveillance has usually been kept at times and in locations where the authorities' presence is required. Discua Elvir noted: "That is nothing new. We may possibly do it now, during Holy Week, to protect citizens' lives and property."

Gen. Discua Elvir, who accompanied President Rafael Leonardo Callejas yesterday at the opening of the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation's (FHIA) Agricultural Information Center Project in La Lima, also paid a visit to the Mario C. Rivas Northwestern Hospital.

The Armed Forces chief said that his presence at the northern zone's first treatment center was to enable him to become acquainted with that "beautiful building, because I have not had the opportunity to admire it as a social projection on the part of the military institution."

He also pointed out that he took the opportunity to visit soldiers confined there.

Moreover, he indicated that, in talks with the Mario C. Rivas Hospital director, Reynaldo Gomez Urtecho, they had discussed the possibility of making the Armed Forces available, in the near future, to provide some medical and surgical equipment, if necessary.

For his part, director of military health, Colonel Arnaldo Guillen, reported that, in conjunction with the Rivas Hospital, they would be organizing medical brigades in remote communities, starting in April.

Members of Task Force Bravo are also participating in this program, which began at Islas de la Bahia. Their activities include opening up communications routes in the country's remote localities.

Accompanying Gen. Luis Alonso Discua Elvir were Colonel Julio Armando Pavon and his staff from the 105th Infantry Brigade; Colonel Jose de Jesus Banegas Medina, commander of the Army; Colonel Hector Castro Cabus, commander of the Honduran Air Force; Lieutenant Colonel Medardo Pena Gomez, commander of the Armando Escalon E. Air Base; and Colonel Arnaldo Guillen, director of military health.

* Hospitalization, Health Care Costs Double

91CA0100H San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish (MARTES FINANCIERO Supplement) 12 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The Law on Structural Organization of the Economy, in effect since 12 March 1990, has hurt the health field, raising prices of services and medicines. This, in turn, has shot inflation up over 100 percent in some instances, according to a study made by the Research Institute (IDEI) located in San Pedro Sula.

The study, disseminated by Hector Guillermo Gale, director of the IDEI, claims that professional doctor's office visits, and costs of laboratory tests, X-rays, vision tests, and others, plus hospitalization expenses, have shown substantial increases.

Gale explained that, during the 1980's, prices of the health sector components remained unchanged. Hence,

1989 was taken as a base for making the study of the price index and inflation rates related to private hospitalization costs.

In 1990 the price index reached 183.89 percent, consequently indicating inflation of 83.89 percent in the hospitalization area alone: that is, only insofar as being entitled to a private or semiprivate room, or the general room, is concerned.

As for surgery, only the use of the operating room was considered, excluding examinations, professional fees of anesthetists, instrument aides, and surgeons, as well as medications, use of instruments and disposable material, and other items.

In this category the price index during the same year, 1990, was 159.69 percent. This indicates a price variation of 59.69 percent for that service.

With regard to maternity, for purposes of the study only the use of the delivery room was considered. The study excluded the fees of gynecologists, anesthetists, and instrument aides. Also excluded were the costs of medications, instruments, and disposable materials.

This health component, essential for the reproduction and preservation of life, showed one of the highest price indexes: 201.11 percent; reflecting a high inflation rate totaling 101.11 percent.

For costs of nursing and administration services, as well as support services and others, the highest price index was obtained, namely, 233.33 percent. As a result, the inflation rate reached 133.33 percent.

Gale indicated that the IDEI did not make a study of other services and products such as anesthesia, minor equipment, transfusions, tomography, pathology, and echo graphs, which are entered separately on the bills. This area would require an individual analysis.

He remarked: "We know that the prices of those services have risen considerably. This unbalances family budgets, and forces people to resort to debt in order to finance it."

He added that, in view of this situation, there has been an increase in the number of people currently visiting public hospitals in an attempt to improve their health. They are no longer making private office visits as they had been previously.

However, in the public hospitals there is a shortage of medications and a lack of rooms. The Honduran Social Security Institute protects women (household companions or wives of beneficiaries) only insofar as maternity and children up to age five are concerned. Hence, it does not cover illnesses common in women, and leaves children over age five completely unprotected.

* IDB, IBRD Representatives Issue Statement

91CA0100G Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 4 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Experts from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank (IBRD) claim to have accrued good results from their joint efforts for lending financial support to the program for the structural adjustment of the Honduran economy.

Edgar Ayales, Central America's executive director in the IDB; that same agency's regional assistant manager of operations, Joel Riley; and the World Bank director for Mexico and Central America, Rainer Steckhan; revised the joint structural adjustment program being carried out on the isthmus.

In the IDB's Seventh Replenishment of Funds for the period 1990-94, the IDB was authorized to embark on joint financing, with the IBRD of the programs for structural adjustment of the Central American economies, especially in the area of sectorial loans.

Previously, the IDB was negotiating its credits in a traditional manner, lacking experience in structural adjustments programs, such as the World Bank had. Hence, the decision was made that it would work for two years in conjunction with the aforementioned financing agency, as Edgar Ayales explained.

Therefore, both last year and this, the IDB has been providing support to the countries' balance of payments, so that they may establish adjustment measures. Honduras is the first case in which the new policy with the IBRD is being implemented, and "there have been good results, because it has assistance from both sides for a specific structural adjustment project."

In this context, funds have been channeled to electric power and agricultural projects, amounting to over $100 million.

Costa Rica currently requires a similar program in the area of foreign trade and public sector reform; and Nicaragua has also requested aid from the IBRD and IBD to reinforce foreign trade and the financial sector.

Negotiations are being held with Nicaragua to enable that country to achieve an agreement during the third quarter of this year. However, it will first be necessary to make contracts with the neighboring country, because its payments to both agencies have been left in abeyance for several years.

On the other hand, Joel Riley noted that, last year Honduras managed to surmount its arrears situation in 180 days, affording it access to new credits and disbursements. Agreements will be reached with the other Central American countries, including Panama, to initiate programs of a similar type.

In the past, it was a "dirty word" to say that one would work jointly with the IDB, IBRD, and IDA [International Development Association], but now the situation has changed. Last year they suspended approval of credits for the region, except for Costa Rica, but this year a substantial increase is expected in the operations with the respective governments.

The IBRD director for Mexico and Central America, Rainer Steckhan, for his part, claims that, during his participation in the working session on the activities of

that agency and the IDB in the region, as part of the agenda of the Fifth Meeting of IDB Central American Governors, projects that will lead to improved social and educational conditions for the poorest sectors, as well as those to supplement the programs for structural adjustment of the economies, are to be included.

Photo Caption [photo not reproduced]

Joel Riley, Edgar Ayales, IDB experts; and Rainer Steckhan, World Bank director for Mexico and Central America; stated last Saturday in this capital that the execution of the jo[illegible]rogram of financial backing to the policies for struct[illegible]djustment of the region's economies has brought [illegible]d results, and that the aid will be increased in future years.

Panama

Poll on U.S. Presence, Treaty Renegotiation

PA2304202791 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Apr 91 p 10A

[Text] The majority of Panamanians think that the U.S. soldiers who have been in their territory since 20 December 1989 should remain here. This is the result of a public opinion poll conducted by Consultoria Interdisciplinaria en Desarrollo (CID), representative of Gallup International Research for Central America.

A total of 71 percent of the persons polled believe that U.S. soldiers should remain, as opposed to only 16 percent who believe that they should be withdrawn.

It is apparent that the higher the person's academic level is, the greater the number of those who believe that the U.S. troops should be withdrawn. Nevertheless, 62 percent of the people polled who have attended a university believe in the need for the U.S. troops to remain.

The poll was conducted in March throughout the nation. A total of 1,207 persons were questioned. Of this number, 607 reside in the capital's metropolitan area while the other 600 reside in the rest of the nation. The poll's margin of error is approximately 3.5 percent.

The majority of Panamanians believe that the U.S. military bases should remain. This is the opinion of 72.7 percent of the persons polled as opposed to 15.8 who think the contrary.

At any rate, the poll demonstrates that the majority of the persons who believe that the U.S. military action was an invasion are among those who have a higher level of education. Of the 132 persons questioned who have a higher level of education, 47 percent said that the U.S. military action was an invasion, while 51 percent stated that it was an act of liberation.

Nevertheless, when questioned if the Panama Canal treaties that have been signed with the United States should be renegotiated, 69 percent replied positively while 31 percent replied negatively.

Among those who replied positively, 53.4 percent said the treaties should be negotiated by the people's direct participation, 4.5 percent said negotiations should be conducted by the government, and 3.5 percent said negotiations should be held directly by the president. A total of 7.5 percent did not give a definite response to the question, but demonstrated their disposition toward the treaties' renegotiation.

Officials Comment on Legal Assistance Treaty

PA2304161091

[Editorial report] The following is a compendium of reports from the Panamanian media concerning the signing of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty [MLAT] by the Republic of Panama and the United States on 11 April.

Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish on 21 April carries a 200-word report on comments by Jose Miguel Aleman, deputy government and justice minister, on the MLAT signed on 11 April by the governments of Panama and the United States. Aleman notes "Panama has been able to sign a treaty on equal or better conditions than those signed with the Bahamas, Grand Cayman, and the British Virgin Islands." He adds that he has always supported the treaty because it constitutes "an effective way to clean up the country's image abroad."

The same newspaper carries a 1,500-word statement issued by the National Executive Committee of the People's Action Party [PAPO], outlining its reasons for opposing the MLAT. According to the PAPO statement, the treaty contains "obscure, imprecise, insufficient, and ambiguous points that in no way favor the country's best interests." By way of example, PAPO says that no legal expert can define what the term "suppression of offenses" means. Moreover, though article 2 defines the term "offense as any punishable action under the laws of the two sides," section b of the same article says that an "offense is any criminal action that carries a prison term of one year or more in the state making the request," the PAPO statement adds. Commenting on the Note on Additional Agreements, the PAPO leadership says that it proves that the MLAT contains "imprecise, obscure, confusing, and inaccurate aspects," as there would be no need for said note otherwise. To conclude, PAPO urges the National Legislative Assembly not to ratify the treaty.

Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 20 April carries live the one-hour "Loud and Clear" talk show program hosted by Lucy Molinar. The guests are Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino, Luis H. Moreno, manager of the National Bank, and Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the Panama Banking Association, APB. The first half of the program is devoted to a discussion of the MLAT. Lasso Valdes expresses the opinion that the MLAT reflects the banking community's desire to send a clear message to the world that Panamanian banks are not laundering drug money. In this regard, he says: "Bankers, both

foreign and local, hold the same idea: That we should prove to the world that if that treaty will achieve our goal of combatting drug trafficking and money laundering, then we all agree with it."

Moreno says there is some fear that the treaty will diminish Panama's importance as a banking sector. In response to this fear, he says: "In 1990, Panama's banking sector grew at a rate that local and foreign bankers acknowledge as spectacular. It recovered $3.6 billion in deposits that had been withdrawn and since redeposited for two reasons: First, because Panama inspires confidence, and second, because Panama is competitive in the world of finance." He adds: "No individual, corporation, or banks would put their money in Panama if there was even the slightest risk or reason for mistrust."

Molinar says the treaty has evoked a generalized comment: "The country is being sold out to the Gringos." Mulino answers: "It is my opinion that this treaty was negotiated with a great sense of responsibility, and without any superpatriotic or demagogic complex." He says it was done by honest Panamanians who sought to "protect our national interests" to the best of their judgment. He says the discussions always centered on Panama's need to exclude crimes that are exclusively tax-related from the scope of the treaty, although the treaty does provide for assistance to be given when a tax-related crime is proved to be "closely related to crimes involving drugs, money laundering, or any other illicit activity covered by the terms of the treaty."

In closing discussion of the subject, Mulino says: "It is important to emphasize here that we have protected our national interests with this treaty....Our image has not been tarnished. The Republic of Panama and its authorities who are in charge of enforcing the law in this area will now have another tool with which to work efficiently and speedily to prevent crimes, without undermining banking confidentiality in any way.... We can feel satisfied that we have achieved success for the Republic of Panama in this negotiating process."

Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish on 22 April on page 20-a carries a full-page reportage on the banking sector's reaction to the MLAT. In one 650-word item, ABP President Lasso Valdes is cited as saying that Panama's banks have been releasing information on accounts that are allegedly linked to drug trafficking for years. He recalled "Operation Piscis," carried out five years ago, when certain bank accounts were frozen. He adds that Panamanian bankers have never hesitated to release information to Panamanian authorities as they are required to do by law. He sees the MLAT as an extension of this, since he says any request for information coming from the United States would have to be funneled through the Attorney General's Office.

In a 400-word item on the same page, Rene Diaz, president of the Banco Internacional, says that the work of the treaty negotiators is "praiseworthy," because all provisions extraneous to the main purpose of the treaty have been eliminated. He says the signing of the treaty will serve to show the world that Panama does not want to be utilized for illicit activities.

Federico Humbert, president of the Banco General, is cited in a 400-word item in the EL PANAMA AMERICA reportage as saying that the MLAT represents a positive step in the prevention of the drug traffic. He is quoted as saying, "If the life of one youth somewhere in the world is saved because of this treaty, then the treaty is good."

Former Police Chief Comments on Security Issues

PA2404002091 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Apr 91 p 2A

[By Althea Foster de Chavarria]

[Text] Following the U.S. invasion of Panama, the Public Force has been the focus of a transformation process aimed at completely demilitarizing the country and putting it under the control of civilian authority.

To achieve this, a draft urging the reform of the Constitution has been presented to the Legislative Assembly. The draft seeks the total and permanent elimination of the Armed Forces in the country and the creation of a civil police organization which would maintain public security and protect the assets and dignity of all the Panamanian citizens.

This way, the feared repressive system brutally implemented by the extinct Defense Forces commanded by Manuel Antonio Noriega during the political crisis of the past few years in Panama would be eliminated.

LA PRENSA has talked about the current situation of the Public Force with the man who, until one week ago, was director of this institution, Dr. Ebrahim Asvat, who has described the national police as a national project.

He has said: "In view of the crisis inherited from the narco-dictatorship, the government must learn how to center its attention on three or four basic aspects of the problematic situation we are facing. One of the most important aspects is that of public security."

An effort is being made to promote a demilitarization process that envisages a civil police organization and requires full government support.

Asvat said history will remember the demilitarization process and the transformation of the military model into a police model more than anything else President Guillermo Endara might do.

He said: "It would be the best work that the government could leave to Panama, Latin America, and the world, because it would show how a small country in a region agitated by violence relinquished its army and got on the road to demilitarization and the creation of police services."

In spite of the importance of producing the total elimination of militarism, Asvat said, the president has not paid enough attention when this issue was discussed.

He noted: "The president has not realized the importance of the public security project. He has been consulted and presented with many concerns, but nothing has come of it."

He admitted that passion and government conflicts promoted by politicians became obstacles which prevented the implementation of the public security project.

Asvat also said that on countless occasions, he found Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles to be a serious obstacle to the implementation of an adequate police budget.

Asvat said: "If the Public Force functions deficiently it is primarily because it has never received the attention it needs with regard to the resources it requires, and also because of the comptroller general's intransigent refusal to satisfy the needs of the police to fulfill their function."

In 1990, the Public Force budget was 64 million balboas; it received 75 percent of that money. The budget for this year is approximately 66 million balboas.

Asvat noted that political passion, the lack of understanding of the importance of this national project, big rivalries, and big egos were the greatest obstacles to fulfilling the mission to be accomplished.

Asvat said that the Public Force has had inflicted on it a wound that must be treated. He noted: "Maybe now that there is a disciple of the comptroller general in the post of director of the Public Force, the comptroller will open the economic resource valve so that the institution can fulfill its function, because the people's security is important, and the government, as well as its officials, must cooperate to return to society some sense of security.

Asvat affirmed that public security is a task of not just the police and that as long as there is unemployment and a lack of attention for the country's social needs, there will be a high crime rate.

He said: "Drugs have infested Panama City. Drug dealers are everywhere. Within three or four years we will have chronic drug addiction problems in the country and the government has not established rehabilitation and prevention centers to keep young people safe from this vice."

The former police director said that constant changes in the Office of the Public Force Director produce traumatic situations that must be handled carefully. He noted that since 23 December 1989, the director has been replaced five times.

Asvat affirmed: "There is uncertainty because there is a political conflict between two parties, and the appointment of a new director who is a member of another political faction means starting again from zero; this is traumatic."

He cautioned that it is important to continue the projects that had been initiated because they are national, not party, projects. "In the national police," Asvat said, "no one has been appointed because of party militancy and there is no nepotism."

Asvat confirmed that the police are gathering information on organized crime and its networks in Panama. This information is obtained as a result of operations to capture criminals.

Asvat reiterated that he does not know about charges that link Public Force units to telephone espionage activities.

Can the Arnulfista Party militants and the police work together? Asvat said in this regard that there will be no problem as police directors realize that policemen have a certain level of professionalism and that continued professionalism must be guaranteed.

He noted, however, that if the "Arnulfista hordes" burrow in and have their own armed groups, then problems will arise.

He said: "I am concerned with the increase in the level of the arms build-up taking place, especially, in the Institutional Protection Service [SPI]. I believe we want a police force and we do not have to go around with military pretenses or to unnecessarily show-off our arms."

Asvat affirmed: "Policemen have learned that they must act as policemen when they are on the street and that they do not have to use automatic weapons unless the situation demands. This is one concept that policemen must learn in their training."

The professional level of SPI members is a source of concern. Police recruits are trained for eight months, but SPI units receive only one week or one month of training.

The country is entitled to democratic constitutional order being respected. "Life in democracy," Asvat stated, "means forgetting about coups d'etat." Any kind of coup d'etat is a violent way of reaching power. The country can no longer sustain this kind of attack on constitutional order.

He affirmed: "The Panamanian people want to live in peace. They also want their state representatives to be people elected by the people through elections, and this is most important. I am not a prophet able to say whether or not a coup d'etat is possible. However, it would be very painful for the Panamanian people to endure situations that I believe have been overcome." It would be unlikely that the police would carry out a coup because their frame of mind has changed so much, he said. I believe, he noted, that right now Public Force units do not have a coupist mentality. There is, however, dissatisfaction and low morale. Because of this, special attention should be paid to the police, otherwise the country will continue to endure the high crime rate and violence it has been enduring, Asvat affirmed.

Finally, Asvat reiterated that it is necessary to pay much attention to the National Police project, because it is

very important. He said that if this project is successful, Panama will go down in history as one of the few countries from the Central American region that was able to completely demilitarize itself after having endured a ruthless military dictatorship.

Politicians, Leaders Comment

PA2304183491

[Editorial report] Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 1600 GMT on 21 April broadcasts the "Let Us Find Solutions" Program, hosted by RPC news director Julio Miller. The program lasts about 45 minutes and was monitored in progress. Mr. Miller's guests in the roundtable to discuss the problem of public security are General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, former chief of the now defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP]; Civic Crusade leader Manuel Burgos; Deputy Police Director Major Dario Arrue; Police Director Gonzalo Menendes; and former Police Director Ebrahim Asvat.

Burgos says that the police chief should serve for a fixed period of time as the attorney general and the comptroller general because this guarantees independence of action. He adds that, if possible, this director should not have any political affiliation. Burgos says that the ultimate responsibility for the demilitarization process should not be focused soley on the police director, but on the Legislative Assembly because "I do not believe that it has done anything." It is, he adds, also a responsibility of the Executive Branch, which should support the changes that must take place within the police.

Paredes notes that he respects the opinions of Asvat and Menendes, but believes that they are idealistic, "they are idealistic, but not realistic." He points out that both Asvat, who is a Christian Democratic Party member, and Menendes, who is a member of the Arnufist Party, "are more politicians than police directors." Paredes says that he agrees with Burgos that the problem indeed has more profound roots; now is the time to stop and reassess the situation.

The former FDP chief adds that although they did achieve some positive things, Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon and Mr. Asvat, in their attempt to reorganize the police "were unable to raise its members' efficiency, enthusiam, and professional pride to fulfill their duty of protecting the lives and security."

Paredes argues that Menendes is under pressure from his party and will not give continuity to Arias' policies. He calls for an apolitical police and adds that this could be achieved "as Maj. Arrue said; that this can be achieved only by feeling as such and showing seriousness in becoming an honorable citizen in uniform." There are many policemen who are honorable and humble, but "they are also victims at the time of political confrontations, historically speaking; they are victims of the besiege of professional politicians."

When asked by Miller what are the consequences of this, Paredes answers that, because the police represent the center of power, politicians try to conquer power centers "to achieve their goal, that is, cling to power." Paredes says that Panama only has nine more years to define the role of the three state branches and the Public Force.

When host Miller prompts Asvat to comment on the statements made by Burgos and Paredes, the former police director points out that the country "is transforming an institution; this transformation causes trauma for the individuals involved or are affected by it; that is, a tranformation from a monolithic militaristic model into a police state."

Asvat adds that the policemen feel uncertainty as a result of this: "It is important to understand why the policemen are not reacting, why we are facing a wave of robberies; why the police are not showing enthusiasm? He argues that there has been little attention paid to the need to give professional stability to the policemen. Asvat says that there is some uncertainty and morale is decreasing. This issue has not been addressed, he adds, and one cannot expect the best performance in such circumstances.

The former police director underscores the need to promulgate a law "to guarantee professional stability to the men in uniform" and define their duties. He points out that the public security project has not been taken up as a project of the government as a whole, as a national project, and this is confirmed by the fact that government officials have made statements that contradict government plans. He adds that a certain performance is expected of the policemen but they are not supplied with the necessary tools.

Asvat goes on to say that "certain government officials have hindered the police force's work due to party-related differences, and this has affected the public security plan."

In response to Asvat's remarks, current police director Menendes says that he will establish a police force in keeping with democratic concepts. He says that one of the problems that exist is that the public is not properly informed about many things that they should know. It is not true, Menendes says, that the change within the police force have been strictly aesthetic. Certain centralized units, such as the UESAT [Special Antiterror Service Unit] and G-2 [Intelligence], which functioned as the executors of repressive policies, have been dismantled. "The policemen are no longer subjected to days or weeks without their families, homes, and neighborhood as in the past; their work schedules are respected. The changes are not cosmetic, as Burgos says."

Menendes goes on to say that much of what the Public Force does, including many of the crimes it has thwarted, are not published by the media. The force is not perfect he says, but to say that they are not working, that morale is very low, and that the policemen are resentful, is inaccurate.

Burgos admonishes Menendes for his sensibility to constructive criticism, saying that it is an attitude that could

spell disaster for a politician. He says that the problem is not the lack information but the lack of tangible results. The policemen, Burgos says, are inefficient because they do not have a legal framework within which to work. They must be provided with adequate working conditions.

Asvat then points out: "Panama may have an excellent police force, but if the administrative system of corregidores, mayors, and governors is defficient, we will get nowhere."

Prompted to join the discussion by host Miller, Major Arrue acknowledges that the policemen are demoralized somewhat. He cites various issues that are important to the policemen: a basic law, without which the police force cannot be properly established; the restoration of certain privileges, such as health benefits; salaries; policeman, he says, should not be earning $280 a month because he becomes easy prey for bribery, cases of which we have detected. Arrue also states that $5 raises and the lack of work equipment are also important issues.

Gen. Paredes, referring to Menendes' remarks, says that he has raised a smoke screen. We have nine years to perfect our democracy, he said, adding that the Public Force has been managed from a political viewpoint. Says Paredes: "The current situation in the country, the recent events between Dr. Arias Calderon and Mr. Endara, president of the Republic, who says that his telephones were tapped, and remarks attributed to Ana Mae, are apparent motives; the real motive is the struggle for power in 1994. That is what is at stake today." Paredes attributed these events to democratic freedom, but said that the Public Force should not be involved.

The program ends with each guest expressing his conclusions. The first to speak was Asvat, who said that public security should be considered a national priority. Asvat rejected Gen. Paredes' dual concept of civilians versus policemen or the military, saying that all goverment employees are public servants; he said that the demilitarization process will be achieved when the U.S. bases are withdrawn; and that the Panamanian people want a professional, technical, and apolitical police force.

Menendes agreed with Asvat that security is a national problem but, he said, changes are under way at the police academy, which should receive all of the public, fiscal, and financial support it requires. Menendes also said that the media should heighten the people's awareness on the new police's role, and that a policeman's conduct should be ethical and that it should remain within the realm of his duties.

Arrue concluded that we all want democracy, we are learning to live in democracy, and that this will take time. Moreover, the police should not be involved in politics; those comrades who are no longer in the institution should allow the current force to do its work.

Burgos believes that demilitarization is a profound, structural problem and should be dealt with within a legal framework. The institution must provide the policemen with adequate work conditions: adequate salaries, insurance policies, and other priorities. Paredes says that today's politicians are wasting too much time on the issue discussed today. Our leaders, he says, should not work with an eye on the 1994 elections but on our future generations' well-being. We must perfect our sovereignty, we must make sure that the Americans will not be in Panama in the year 2000 and we must defend our democracy.

Program host Julio Miller concluded that the Public Force lacks the basic resources to curb crime in Panama. He said that it requires a basic law that will ensure security, salaries and promotions in keeping with the level of work done; a non-partisan hierarchy; and, he added, the Public Force must make a renewed effort against crime, because if it fails to do so, our streets will be totally without security.

PRD Deputy Rejects Possible Deal With PDC

PA2404020491 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Apr 91 p 21

[Article by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] Deputy Alberto Aleman Boyd, Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) member, has stated that his political organization has no intention of cutting any deals with leaders that "were imposed by foreign troops and sworn in at a U.S. military base."

Aleman Boyd emphatically denied that the PRD seeks to tie its votes with the ruling party in the Legislative Assembly or with the new opposition [Christian Democrats], who, in his view, remain allies of the president.

Aleman Boyd added that the PRD will not close ranks with any party that supported "an unjust and ominous invasion." Boyd ruled out any kind of agreement or negotiation with parties that—whether they like it or not—belong to the government, since they do have a vice president in the executive branch.

The Legislative Assembly is comprised of 68 deputies, 28 belong to the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), 16 to the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (Molirena), nine to the PRD, six to the Arnulfist Party (PA), five to the Authentic Liberal Party (PLA), and one to the Liberal and Labor Party (PALA).

This means that the ruling alliance has 27 deputies and the PDC wing has 28. Given that two-thirds of the votes are needed for a final decision—that is, 34.6 votes—this gives the votes of the PRD, the PALA, and the Liberals decisive leverage with the two majority forces.

Endara Views 13th Month Bonus, Espionage Issue

PA1804205491 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has said that he is prepared to veto the bill authorizing payment of the 13th

month bonus, in the event that it is approved by the Legislative Assembly plenum.

[Begin recording] [President Endara] Listen, this would be a recognition of reality more than a presidential veto. How are we going to pay the 13th month bonus? I would rather veto the bill than fail to comply with it. There is no money to pay the 13th month bonus.

[Unidentified reporter] It has been said that there is $50 million available...

[Endara, interrupting] This information is wrong. We do not have $50 million. This is what [First Vice President] Ricardo [Arias Calderon] says. I do not know where he got this information. Now, I am going to tell you one thing. We have obtained a small surplus this year. However, we have practically committed those funds to special education, health, and housing budgets that we have to present to the Legislative Assembly. These elements of the infrastructure are indispensable to the economic development of Panama. Thus, I do not know how can we spend money that does not exist. [end recording]

President Endara referred to the possible increase in meat prices.

[Begin recording] [Endara] I have asked the gentlemen at the Price Control Office to act with great caution. I think that this measure is not yet imminent.

[Reporter] Is it possible to have an unregulated meat market?

[Endara] Listen, this would be ideal. However, I believe that we are not ready yet—this is my own personal opinion—for the deregulation of the meat market. I think that we need to implement one or two middle steps. After this is done, we could have a deregulated meat market. If we were to deregulate now, prices may increase sharply and the people would not tolerate this.

[Reporter] Mr. President, Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon denied that an espionage office continues to function....

[Endara, interrupting] This office was created under the nose of the minister of government and justice. It was located in buildings 322-A and 322-B in Quarry Heights. This office belonged to the National Police, under the authority of the very Ricardo. If this office had followed my instructions, it would have only engaged in criminal investigations and perhaps some internal investigations within the National Police. However, it turns out that, after I ordered an investigation on [Directorate for the Recovery of State Property] magistrate Marchosky's recommendation, I realized that this office was investigating private affairs. This office investigated journalist Mayin Correa; the government alliance; the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]; and the personal lives of some close relatives of mine. It went further to investigate Monsignor Mcgrath. [end recording]

Revenue Director Explains $49.4 Million Surplus

PA2404020591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 19 Apr 91 p 8C

[Report by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] Francisco Young, the national revenue director of the Finance and Treasury Ministry, has disclosed to EL PANAMA AMERICA that there was a $49.4 million surplus in total revenue during the first quarter of 1991.

The 1991 budget had foreseen $226.8 million in revenue for the quarter in question, however, the state's tax and non-tax revenues collected for that same period amounted to $276.2.

It was this surplus that prompted the Christian Democratic Party to demand the 13th month bonus payment for public employees, a request that is being discussed at the Assembly and that was already rejected by President Endara and Planning and Economic Policy Minister Guillermo Ford.

This does not mean, Young warned, that there will be a similar surplus throughout the rest of 1991. It is normal to have such a surplus this time of the year, when income taxes and banking and commercial licenses become due.

"The best proof of this is that there is a positive balance for January and March, but not for February, during this very same period," Young stressed.

Argentina

Menem Orders Postponement of General Elections

PY2304191991 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1544 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has instructed Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa to delay the next general elections until the end of October, if this is allowed under the deadlines set by law. The general elections had been set for 8 September 1991.

The minister confirmed that he has received "precise instructions" from the president to order the postponement. He rejected "political speculation" that the government may call the elections earlier in view of a possible failure of its economic plan.

Mera Figueroa made these remarks as he left the Olivos Residence, where he met with President Menem. Concerning the new date for the elections, he said that "we have to consider the legal deadlines." He said though that the president "asked that the date of the elections be set as close to 10 December as possible." This is the legal deadline for installing the newly elected authorities.

Duhalde Denies Any Plot Against Government

PY2304012091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] (DYN)—The existence of a plot to seize control of key sectors of government by "economic interest groups" and "a network of political alliances" was denied yesterday by Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde.

The plotters intend to remove Defence Minister Erman Gonzalez from his post to gain control of the Armed Forces and isolate President Carlos Menem in a power vacuum, according to a front-page story in the mass-circulation daily Cronica yesterday.

Cronica based its story on an "intelligence report" prepared for the President. Duhalde denied the story outright saying "there's no information of any such plot" and furthermore denied any report reaching the President's hands.

Acting Senate President Eduardo Menem also denied knowledge of any plot brewing or of "any intelligence report to that effect. I mean it in complete sincerity, it's the first any such news I've heard about it."

The "new economic-political alliance" was reported as seeking control over the Armed Forces' mammoth economic holdings (up for privatization) and over the nation's military and security institutions.

After sidelining Gonzalez, the plot foresees the restructuring of the higher echelons of the Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to secure a tight hold on the multi-million-dollar sale of military enterprises and real estate, Cronica reported.

The plot was hatched by civilian backers of failed Carapintada [Painted Face] uprisings and "important figures" of the current administration, it said.

Border Integration Committee With Chile Created

PY2204145491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0015 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (TELAM)—The Argentine and Chilean Governments today signed an agreement creating a border committee for southern integration. The document, that was signed in the Chilean city of Punta Arenas, is within the framework of the 1990 joint declaration issued by Presidents Carlos Menem and Patricio Aylwin.

A communique released in this capital by authorities of Tierra del Fuego government house states that the new organization will be aimed at promoting and coordinating actions to expedite the traffic of people, vehicles and merchandise, as well as communications and tourist, educational, cultural, sports, and scientific exchange.

Attending the ceremony were Adrian Farina, governor of former national territory of Tierra del Fuego; Jose Ramon Granero, governor of the Santa Cruz Province; and the intendant of the 12th Chilean region of Magallanes. During the ceremony it was decided that representatives of Chilean and Argentine private organizations will be allowed to participate on the committee.

The decision to create such a committee originated when the Argentine and Chilean Governments signed the "Peace and Friendship Treaty" mediated by Pope John Paul II. This intention was later confirmed in the paragraph on "border integration" included in the joint declaration Presidents Menem and Aylwin signed in 1990.

Brazil

Government Agrees To Roll Over State Debts

PY2004025691 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] The governors of Rio de Janeiro and Rio Grande do Sul have concluded an agreement with the Federal Government to roll over the debts of those states.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello signed an agreement with Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola to immediately roll over the state debt in security papers, worth 200 billion cruzeiros, which will be swapped for Federal Government bonds in three portions by July. This operation will save nearly 6 billion cruzeiros per month in the cost of rolling over the state debt in securities. The contracted debt of about 6.5 trillion cruzeiros, 70 percent of which was contracted for the construction of the Rio de Janeiro subway, will be negotiated in late June. Governor Brizola left the Economy Ministry building with a guarantee that Federal Government loans will be disbursed.

The economy minister also signed an agreement with the governor of Rio Grande do Sul, Alceu Collares. It was agreed that the Rio Grande do Sul Government will pay 50 billion cruzeiros this year, which is one-third of the state debt carried in security papers. The total state debt amounts to 1.2 trillion cruzeiros.

Government To Penalize Foreign Debt Defaulters

PY2304161091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The Federal Government will block the bank accounts of states, municipalities, and state enterprises that fail to honor their foreign debts as they come due. Roberto Figueiredo, head of the National Treasury Department, said the accounts will be automatically blocked and mentioned other penalties that will be applied to debtors defaulting on their obligations. These penalties include the nondisbursement of participation fund shares and the inclusion of debtors on a black list, as requested by President Fernando Collor de Mello.

IBGE Institute Reports Mar Inflation Rate

PY2004024691 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Summary] The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics has reported the March inflation rate: The National Consumer Price Index totaled 11.79 percent. The rate in March was lower than in February, when it registered 20.2 percent.

Chile

General Pinochet Views Constitutional Reform

PY2304210591 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief, has said that the constitutional reforms that involve the irremovability of the Army commanders was solved by the previous reform of the Constitution. Pinochet thus answered a question on the government's initiative to revoke the irremovability of the Army commanders.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] I believe that everything was solved [words indistinct].

[Reporter] This means that the second amendment of the Constitution that the government is planing is not correct.

[Pinochet] I do not know. I can tell you nothing because I do not know. [end recording]

Pinochet also referred to the creation of the public security coordinating office. He said that the Army will cooperate with this institution because it has always cooperated when he was asked.

[Begin Pinochet recording] We cooperate when they ask me. [Words indistinct] we are being patriotic. [end recording]

Pinochet said this after attending the opening of an exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of cartography in Chile. This exhibition is sponsored by the Military Geographic Institute. Also attending the ceremony was Army Chief of Staff General Martin Bonnet. Pinochet and Bonnet this morning laid wreaths at the monuments of Chilean hero Bernardo O'Higgins and Argentine hero Jose de San Martin.

PCCh Member Views 'Repressive Measures'

PY1904203091 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Oscar Azocar, a member of the political commission of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh], has regretted the fact that the government, in his opinion, is taking repressive measures in its struggle against the problem of terrorism. Among these measures he mentioned the raids at shantytowns and the detention of people who have returned to our country and of former political prisoners.

Oscar Azocar said that the PCCh condemns all terrorist actions, but that, beyond the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] and the FPMR-Autonomous Faction, the PCCh appreciates the youths who risked their lives against the dictatorship and made an invaluable contribution to liberty and democracy.

This does not mean that we consider as absolutely wrong the implementation of any type of armed action because we are in a situation of transit toward democracy, the PCCh leader pointed out. Asked if the PCCh had asked the FPMR-Autonomous Faction to lay down arms, Oscar Azocar responded:

[Begin recording] [Azocar] We believe that the decision made by the FPMR, in which it points out that it is willing to become part of the political struggle for democracy and to enhance it and expand it without the use of arms, is very interesting, very positive.

We believe that this is a great, positive decision that must be valued and I believe that even the president of the Republic has positively commented abroad on this.

[Reporter] Of course, but this is just one faction of the FPMR. There are other factions beside the FPMR-Autonomous Faction.

[Azocar] This is our assessment of the problem as a whole. [end recording]

The PCCh leader said that we believe that the FPMR-Autonomous Faction and the other people who could be wrong today should actually join the political struggle, the struggle for democracy.

Oscar Azocar reported that a day of moral restitution for the victims of human rights violations during the military regime will be held on 12 May at the Chile Stadium.

Peru

ILD Official on Alternative Development

PY2304175991 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 4 Apr 91 pp 13, 14

[By Francisco Reyes]

[Text] In the debates over the fight against drugs, both in Peru and in the United States, a conclusion has been reached on the need to create an organization in our country to coordinate the elimination of drug trafficking. This organization would be headed by a so-called "Drug Czar" ["Zar Antidrogas"]. For this reason, President Alberto Fujimori created the Autonomous Authority for Alternative Development, AADA, through a presidential decree on 7 December 1990 based on a proposal by the Institute for Liberty and Democracy, ILD.

ILD official Miguel Gonzalez del Rio is the "brain" behind the AADA. He now explains in detail why, in a underground and hasty way, the antidrug organization was established, an organization that has been questioned by politicians, constitutionalists, and coca growers representatives.

[Reyes] Why do you continue with the AADA when so many groups, including the coca growers, the Defense Front of the San Martin Department, constitutionalists, and politicians of all leanings are against it?

[Gonzalez del Rio] One thing is clear here. There is a difference between an agreement [with the United States] and an autonomous authority. The agreement involves the autonomous authority because we need to coordinate our actions against drug trafficking. The idea is not to focus merely on police and security matters as has been done in the past.

[Reyes] Why was it so confidential. Why were the involved parties not consulted?

[Gonzalez del Rio] The presidential decree creating the AADA was signed on 7 December and the discussions began in mid- or late- January and no one objected to anything. The AADA is a project created by a presidential decree. It was just another step within the framework of the "Fujimori Doctrine" to show abroad that Peru is really interested in a complete change in the fight against drugs.

[Reyes] And because the United States does not want to deal with public institutions which are discredited and suspected of being corrupt?

[Gonzalez del Rio] More important than their corruption and poor reputation is the fact that there are too many of them and that they do not coordinate their work. We are talking about 14 or 15 institutions and 30 to 35 support projects at the local level. There is great chaos in this field.

[Reyes] Is the AADA a precondition for the signing of the agreement with the United States?

[Gonzalez del Rio] No, absolutely not. The AADA was included in the agreement at the request of the Peruvian Government so that the American Government idea—a drug czar—will also be implemented (in Peru) in the form of a group, individual, or institution that is exclusively active and managerially dedicated to the subject of drugs.

[Reyes] Why did the president of the Republic create the AADA through an emergency presidential decree and not through a draft bill in Congress?

[Gonzalez del Rio] Excuse me, but that was a special case. At that time Congress was tied up on the debate over the Budget Law. It was not possible to approve any other law in Congress at that time. The president of the Republic used his power under the Constitution to create an institution that will be regulated by law. There is no legal objection to this.

[Reyes] Yes there are objections. Domingo Garcia Belaunde [not further identified] considers that there are constitutional norms that have not been respected, such as creating an autonomous entity through an emergency presidential decree, a measure that should really be used only for economic or financial cases and not for creating an institution like the AADA.

[Gonzalez del Rio] Although I respect the opinion of Domingo Garcia Belaunde, who was my school friend, that interpretation is not in the Constitution. Beside, the Constitution does not definitively state that the president may not create that kind of institutions. He may do so as long as the institution is within the law. The AADA is under the jurisdiction of the prime minister's office, just like many other similar institutions.

[Reyes] In Domingo Garcia Belaunde's words, the AADA is a juridical aberration.

[Gonzalez del Rio] That is his interpretation. I do not see any constitutional contradiction. In fact, constitutionalist lawyers were consulted before the decree creating the AADA was promulgated. The creation of an autonomous institution is in no way at odds with the Constitution.

[Reyes] In San Martin though, the people declared themselves in a state of insurgency against the AADA.

[Gonzalez del Rio] I do not see how a state of insurgency can be declared against an agreement that has not yet been signed, or against the AADA whose functions have not yet been regulated.

[Reyes] The Defense Front of San Martin [Frente de Defensa de San Martin] also decided to bring a class action suit against the AADA.

[Gonzalez del Rio] I did not know about that.

[Reyes] Does this mean that political and coordinative aspects have been set aside?

[Gonzalez del Rio] The various stages must be completed. The first stage has been completed. The next

stage will no doubt encompass consultations and problems that involve politics and coordination. A national consensus is needed to recognize, as happened with terrorism, that drug trafficking is a national problem and not an institutional or presidential problem. When the president said: "This is the way I believe the problem should be solved," he hit the nail on the head; but this does not mean that others must agree.

[Reyes] If the ILD supports democratizing the decision-making process, why did he not apply this principle to the creation of the AADA?

[Gonzalez del Rio] As things were developing at the time, there was no time for consultations before the AADA was created. Consultations will be conducted now.

[Reyes] Do you think that following so much criticism and suspicion that it may now be difficult to overcome the situation and to achieve the necessary consensus?

[Gonzalez del Rio] If the situation is not surmounted, Peru will become hell. If a consensus does not materialize behind the implications of the fight against drug trafficking, the alternative development plan, and coca crop substitution, the story of terrorism will be repeated in the sense that we will continue to discuss it, without creating a single central agency to decide what will be done.

[Reyes] There is no major discrepancy over the objectives, over crop substitution, or over integrated development, only over the way in which the AADA was conceived and created by an exclusive and closed circle.

[Gonzalez del Rio] It was only done that way because of the emergency situation. How could Peru's clear intention of following the "Fujimori Doctrine" be demonstrated? A concrete step had to be taken before talks on other aspects of reinstating Peru [in the international financial community] and of contact with the United States could be continued. The AADA was that step.

[Reyes] Do you think that the AADA was the reply to a U.S. demand?

[Gonzalez del Rio] The United States had something to do with the creation of the AADA because that country consumes 80 percent of the drug that Peru produces. Some 60 percent of the raw materials used to produce that 80 percent is grown in Peru. Obviously, the major consumer and the major supplier have to reach an agreement on the ways to solve the problem. The first step had to be taken to show what was going on.

[Reyes] Can the AADA be improved?

[Gonzalez del Rio] Not only can we improve it, we can perfect it in every way.

Torres y Torres Discusses Foreign Policy Issues

PY2404034491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, Peruvian prime minister and foreign minister, announced today that the government has submitted a draft bill requesting extraordinary powers for pacification of the country, employment, and government restructuring. Moreover, Torres y Torres Lara said Peru will act as the Rio Group spokesman at a meeting with EEC countries that will be held on 26 and 27 April in Luxembourg. He added that he will discuss two subjects during this meeting: drug trafficking and protection of the environment. The prime minister also referred to the antidrug agreement that will soon be signed with the United States.

[Begin recording] [Torres y Torres] The support group will be gradually established after we improve our international image based on the individual negotiations we are holding with each country. The president's trip was highly positive and it was a significant step in achieving this because in view of it, Japan has expressed an interest in being a member and a promoter of the support group.

My participation at the Luxembourg meeting is also aimed at achieving the support of European countries—that is, of the EEC—for establishment of a support group. If we are able to gather international support for what is being done in Peru, for the decisive actions that have been undertaken and the harsh measures that all Peruvians must implement, we will achieve the impossible: a consensus of the most powerful countries for the establishment of a support group. This will mean not only more resources but also the beginning of an understanding between Peru and the international community.

But, we must be the first to admit that development will only be achieved with our efforts, not just with foreign aid.

[First reporter] When will the support group be established?

[Torres y Torres] There are no dates for this. But it will be soon. Thank you very much....

[Second reporter, interrupting] Speaking about foreign aid, some people have mentioned the possibility of investing part of it in an anti-cholera campaign. Will this issue be discussed during the Rio Group meeting?

[Torres y Torres] Yes, certainly. One of the issues to be discussed is the effect of cholera in other countries. As you are aware from the many agreements we have recently signed, all countries all over the world are greatly interested in supporting the struggle against cholera. Therefore, this support will be mainly directed to improve the health of all Peruvians. [end recording]

Foreign Aid Sought for Social Compensation Plan

PY2304033491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Finance and Economy Vice Minister Alfredo Jalilie has stated that implementation of the social

compensation plan will cost $400 million, of which Peru only has half. Jalilie added that the missing half will be financed with foreign donations and financial aid. [passage omitted]

Police Report Terrorist Attacks in Lima, Ayacucho

PY2304151091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0429 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Lima, 22 Apr (EFE)—Two people were killed and seven injured in terrorist attacks in Ayacucho today, while in Lima a university professor was murdered and at least five bombings took place in various areas of this capital.

Police in Ayacucho, 525 km southeast of Lima, have reported that alleged Shining Path terrorists shot to death school teacher Florentino Tineo in Pampa Cangallo, while a member of the civilian militia known as the "Peasant Defense Patrols," which oppose the subversive group, was also murdered in Quinua by the same terrorist organization.

According to police sources, the terrorists murdered Tineo at his school because he did not join the "armed strike" (strike under the threat of death) declared by the Shining Path terrorist organization in Cangallo Province.

Petronila Chavez, a member of the Peasant Defense Patrols, died in a clash with a column of terrorists in the township of Ananjayoc in Quinua, while seven other patrol members were wounded.

The police sources also reported that the terrorists painted slogans on walls in several areas of Ayacucho and left leaflets in which the Shining Path organization announced a 48-hour "armed strike" for 23 and 24 April in Huamanga Province, in which Ayacucho is located.

The police also reported that terrorists today murdered Marco Saldivar, a professor at the Agrarian University in Lima's La Molina District. Saldivar was shot to death as he got into his car inside the university compound.

It has been also reported that terrorists tonight hurled bombs at at least two offices of the Change 90 movement, the party of President Alberto Fujimori, in Surquillo and San Juan de Miraflores Districts. The explosions caused material damage but no injuries.

Other terrorist attacks were carried out against banks in the Lima districts of Pueblo Libre and Barrios Altos, while a car bomb exploded near a military garrison. The explosions caused material damage but no one was injured.

The police also reported that an anonymous telephone call had claimed that a bomb had been placed near the Swedish Embassy. A package containing papers was later found at the site.

Two Lima Policemen Murdered

PY2304163491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1405 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Lima, 23 Apr (EFE)—Alleged members of the Maoist Shining Path group shot to death a sergeant and corporal of the Peruvian National Police in Lima today.

The murder took place near San Juan de Dios Hospital on the outskirts of Lima, where the policemen were riding in a patrol car that was fired on by people in another car, in which they eventually escaped. Eyewitnesses reported that the policemen were alive when they came out of the car but were finished off with shots to the head by the attackers. [passage omitted]

Air Force Officer Reports Antidrug Actions

PY2304034491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Peruvian Air Force pilots are giving drug traffickers in the Alto Huallaga region a hard time by intercepting Colombian aircraft. This was stated by Air Force Major General (Juan Morante Barbeli), who said that operations in that region are carried out continuously.

[Begin recording] [(Morante)] Air Force policy is to cooperate with the executive branch and its policy.

[Unidentified reporter] Have these types of operations been successful?

[(Morante)] You know that very well because you have published information on some Air Force interventions and actions.

[Reporter] Unfortunately, they have not been enough. The people demand a more effective Peruvian Air Force.

[(Morante)] We, too, would like to cooperate, or better put, would like to be luckier because I am sure nobody in the country is in favor of drug trafficking and nobody should protect it. Therefore, although its contribution may be small, the Air Force will always be there to cooperate in the struggle against drug trafficking. [end recording]

State of Emergency Extended in Two Departments

PY1804225491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today, the government extended the state of emergency in the Provinces of Azangaro, Lampa, Melgar, San Antonio de Putina, and Huancane in Puno Department, as well as in the Provinces of Caraveli, La Union, and Cayoma in Arequipa Department.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1647 GMT on 18 April in a similar report adds that the state of emergency in the aforementioned provinces has been extended "for 60 days."]

All constitutional guarantees contained in Articles 7, 9, and 10 of the Peruvian Constitution are thus suspended

and the Armed Forces continue to be responsible for the control of internal order in these provinces. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Spanish Monarch Concludes Three-Day Visit

PA1704031091 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] A few minutes ago the Spanish monarchs left for Costa Rica, after concluding a three-day visit to this nation. During the visit, King Juan Carlos and President Carlos Andres Perez met to discuss preparations for the celebrations to be held in 1992 to mark the 500th anniversary of the two worlds' encounter. President Carlos Andres Perez also reviewed with the distinguished visitor the cooperation agreements in force between Venezuela and Spain.

During the last day of his visit, King Juan Carlos went over the agreement signed last year in Madrid by the Venezuelan president and Spanish Government Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. The document's review was intended to improve and increase Spanish investments in Venezuela, as well as to increase trade between both nations. During the meetings between both leaders, issues that concern the Central American nations and other important matters related to the Caribbean area, as well as Spain's relations with Latin America were taken up. These conversations were considered very important and beneficial because Venezuela was able to put forth its interest in participating in the European Investment Bank.

During the dinner offered by the president to the Spanish monarchs at the presidential residency La Casona, Carlos Andres Perez said that the discovery of America was a historical event that changed the world. In the next century Latin Americans also look forward to changing the world by contributing to the consolidation of a peaceful and united world, and above all, to a world guided by international justice, the president noted.

* AD, COPEI React to CAP's Speech to Congress

91SM0265A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish First Section 13 Mar 91 p 14

[Text] Deputy Humberto Celli, secretary general of Democratic Action (AD), described the second message delivered to Congress by Carlos Andres Perez (CAP) as very realistic and optimistic.

"The president summed up his government's achievements and his expectations for the future. We think his social policies are very important because they compensate for the negative effects of certain economic policies. The major economic achievements of the adjustment program are also satisfactory."

What is most important for Celli is the call for unity and creative work and a concerted effort in fighting corruption.

"All political organizations in Venezuela agree on putting an end to corruption," Celli emphasized.

"Why do you think there is reason for optimism?"

"Reasons for optimism exist, but we must wait for the policies to develop. We must help the president in his desire to work more closely with the country. I know he will succeed but the measures he has taken cannot have immediate results, meaning within a year or two. We must wait for the end of the constitutional period because by that time, they will have borne the fruits expected of them."

Carlos Canache Mata

The former leader of the parliamentary faction emphasized that 1989 saw an increase in the cost of living as a result of the readjustment policy. However, it dropped 50 percent in 1990 and it is hoped that this year's rate of inflation will be lower, between 20 and 25 percent. Furthermore, there has been no increase in unemployment and the major economic imbalances suffered by the country (which gives the crisis a critical profile) have been corrected. The debt has also been refinanced.

"The cost we have had to pay for that readjustment policy is an increase in poverty and exclusion. That is the negative side of the plan."

Pedro Paris Montesinos

The president of the National Congress and member of the AD CEN [National Executive Committee] said President Perez was correct in saying that the policy of modernizing government, financial, and economic legislation must continue because these are the basic instruments for putting development on solid foundations in order to guarantee self-sustained growth of the economy and, as a result, an improved standard of living for all Venezuelans.

"I believe there is reason for hope and optimism, not just because these are the last emotions to die, but rather, because we have indeed been working assiduously and making great efforts to give stability to the national economy and rectify the situation of poverty in which Venezuelans live."

Paris Montesinos was confident that to the extent that policies are strengthened, they will be more successful. Consequently, results will begin to be seen early next year because prospects for the future are very promising for all Venezuelans.

Cesar Gil

The deputy and leader of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV) and member of the AD CEN does not think the president's message contained anything specific in the way of social policies or the people's demands for wage increases.

"The demand to modify the social welfare system will not be accepted by us in the terms in which it is expressed. Our position will be put before the political

parties and Congress because this demand cannot be viewed as isolated from other needs of the workers."

"Do you think there is reason for optimism, as President Perez said?"

"As president, he has to look optimistic, but the ones who do not believe him are the workers, whose situation has grown intolerable."

Ixora Rojas

The women's national secretary and first vice president of the Chamber of Deputies said the National Executive Committee has done its best to see that social programs reach the greatest number of Venezuelans. Unfortunately, this has not been achieved, for which reason good public management must be guaranteed.

"We have also asked Congress to establish congressional management endowed with a complete physical, technical, and administrative infrastructure in order to follow up on social programs and work to carry them out.

"In addition to a summary of what the government program has been and an announcement of social programs, another important aspect of his message is the call for concerted action because that is what we Venezuelans must achieve in these difficult times."

As one could have expected, the opposition reacted negatively to Perez' message to Congress after two years of government. COPEI [Social Christian Party] and MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] leaders expressed the opinion that "presidential optimism is not in keeping with the serious situation in which we Venezuelans now find ourselves."

Rafael Caldera, COPEI: "Only Optimism"

Former President Rafael Caldera pointed out that "despite the rhetorical effort he has made over the past two years, the president has not been able to transmit his optimism to the Venezuelan people." He said that so far the people have seen nothing concrete of what the government has offered, although the figures released are those that best suit official organizations. He said that "what they call growth is a partial recovery from recession." The leader and founder of COPEI does not believe in what the president said about a drop in the country's inflation.

"Although I do recognize the efforts being made by the president and the faith he has apparently placed in the formulas they have given him," he stressed, "I think the country is suffering a great deal from economic indicators that have their counterpart in social indicators."

Luis Herrera Campins, COPEI: "CAP Exaggerates"

Herrera Campins agreed with Caldera about the president's optimism. He said "President Perez is apparently the only optimist in Venezuela." He added that "the president must inherently be optimistic, although Perez sometimes exaggerates." He noted that "when one pays close attention to his proposals, as we listened to the message he delivered, we are convinced of that reality.... The message was filled with generalizations and lacked concrete details on political and administrative management."

"In the macroeconomic realm," the former president said, "some progress has naturally been made in 1990 and this cannot be denied, but the serious problem is the matter of social justice because in the two years of Perez' new government, the country has become increasingly impoverished."

Luis Enrique Oberto, COPEI: "Unity"

The president of the Chamber of Deputies attributed great importance to President Perez' reference to unity. However, he regretted that "during the message, when the president recognized the situation in which the citizenry finds itself, he did not admit that the deterioration in purchasing power and quality of life is the result of some of the policies and economic measures applied by the government."

"I think that cooperation between the different branches of government must include a search for what has been set forth by the constitution. There is one indispensable need that must be satisfied: an evaluaton of policies, because as long as everything is applied rigidly, without any possibility of evaluation, many possibilities of unity are compromised," he added.

Gustavo Tarre Briceno, COPEI: "Repetitive"

The leader of the COPEI parliamentary bench said the presidential message was a repetition of last year's speech, "a catalogue of good intentions." He described the report presented by the president on what had been accomplished during the year as very poor. He said "the president spoke of macroeconomics, but one unfortunately cannot eat macroeconomics and the people are waiting for something more than encouragement to have patience, patience, and more patience, the words with which the president ends all his messages.

"Fortunately, the time left for patience is shorter and shorter. We have three years of patience left! The social aspect is what concerns me the most. Last year, Congress approved 50 billion bolivars for social spending. That money has not begun to be used and the president makes absolutely no move to explain what has happened."

Abdon Vivas Teran, COPEI: "Macroeconomic Adjustments"

For the COPEI leader, "there is an erroneous, conceptually mistaken and socially detrimental conception that is eroding the stability of the Venezuelan economy and institutions, one that concentrates on President Perez' government programs, which we do not doubt will continue after this message. The most controversial aspect is that of the essential policy, a policy that is a perverse blow to the people, especially in its social aspects, but that is severely harming the Venezuelan economy."

"President Perez was very careful to stress his displeasure over the neoliberal labels that some of us have used to refer to his economic program, but no other label is possible. It is neoliberal behavior that limits the government's sphere of action, manifests distrust for the leadership of the nation, and tries to replace a mixed, united, socially balanced economy with an economy subject to the will of the government," Vivas Teran said.

Freddy Munoz, MAS: "He Did Not Speak With Sincerity"

For the secretary general of MAS, President Perez did not speak with sincerity, vigor, and truth in his message to congress, "although he said he would speak truthfully. However, the truth was in fact consistently absent from his long and boring presentation.... To a great extent, the facts contradict the assessment which the president presented to Congress and the nation."

"The social situation of the great majority of the people declined noticeably and although the economy did not continue its downward trend, the recovery experienced is precarious and modest at best. In analyzing what has happened in the economic and social spheres, the president manipulated his information and gave a biased interpretation of the real facts. For example, inflation was not controlled, as he claimed, but rather, continued its destructive course of destroying the real income of the masses. The level of prices did indeed drop, but the president cannot ignore the fact that this happened because in the year of the assessment there was no outrageous devaluation such as the one in 1989."

He said that "growth experienced in some areas of the economy does not demonstrate stable recovery, although it was accompanied by a continuation of the recessive situation in many other branches, mainly due to the continuing crisis in agriculture and small and medium-size industry in general." He added that "based on the facts, it is impossible to say the economy is in a phase of clear recovery, much less claim the social situation has begun to improve."

* COPEI Studies Results of Political Survey

91SM0265B Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish First Section 12 Mar 91 p 14

[Text] The latest Issue poll for the month of February has been analyzed by the COPEI [Social Christian Party] National Committee. The survey reflects a public opinion trend now shaping up in the country. The question on voting intentions reveals that if elections were held today, Eduardo Fernandez would win with 49 percent of the votes, followed by Pinerua with 25 percent.

The poll also shows that the COPEI has improved its position and, for the first time, is even with Democratic Action (AD) in terms of members or sympathizers. Some 35 percent of those polled said they were COPEI members or sympathizers and the same percentage answered that they were AD members or sympathizers.

When asked for which political party they would vote, 28 percent said they would cast their ballots for COPEI, 22 percent for AD, and 9 percent for MAS [Movement Toward Socialism].

The Issue poll has national coverage (persons of both sexes over the age of 18, urban and rural areas) and used a sampling of 1,500 cases with a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 and a reliability rating of 95.5. The field study was conducted from 25 January to 20 February 1991.

Positive Image of Parties

The image of the parties was more positive than negative. COPEI has a positive balance of 16, AD a rating of 9.

A total of 55 percent of those responding gave COPEI a positive rating, while 39 percent said it was negative. AD has a positive image for 53 percent of those polled and a negative rating for 44 percent.

Another question had to do with political parties and leaders taking positions on the country's problems.

On this question, COPEI obtained 50 percent, AD 32 percent, and the rest 18.

Among the COPEI leaders, Eduardo Fernandez is viewed as the one taking concrete proposals on national affairs, with 30 percent, followed by Rafael Caldera, with 8 percent. Among the Democratic Action leaders, President Perez obtained 18 percent, followed by other colleagues whose combined total was 14 percent.

Fernandez and Pinerua Win in Their Parties

In open primary elections such as those proposed by COPEI, the results of each party would be as follows:

In COPEI, Fernandez would win with 62 percent, followed by Rafael Caldera with 32 percent, and Oswaldo Alvarez Paz with 4 percent. Luis Herrera would win 1 percent and the rest 1 percent.

In AD, Pinerua would win internally with 39 percent, followed by David Morales Bello with 28 percent. Claudio Fermin would obtain 15 points, Carlos Canache 9, and other AD leaders 9.

In MAS, Tablante would win with 43 percent, followed by Teodoro Petkoff with 39 percent. In third place would be Walter Marquez with 9 points, Pompeyo Marquez with 7, and other MAS figures with 2.

Unemployment Main Problem

This Issue poll also indicates that the country's situation is poor, with 72 percent of those surveyed expressing that opinion, compared with 27 percent who thought things were going well.

As far as the main problems suffered by the country and the people are concerned, unemployment tops the list. Some 24 percent think their main problem is unemployment, followed by the economic situation (16 percent), the cost of living (11), housing (9), and crime (5).

A total of 45 percent say that Carlos Andres Perez' government is doing an average job, 28 percent poor, and 23 percent good, meaning the overall opinion remains negative.

* Financing for Nontraditional Exports Expanded

91SM0266A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish Second Section14 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The Exports Financing Fund (Finexpo) has signed agreements with a group of banks for credit lines that will be used for the dollar-denominated financing of nontraditional exports.

The signing took place at the Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV); on the same occasion the Foreign Trade Institute (ICE) and the Bank Association of Venezuela entered into an agreement to spur integration. The accord is based on the need to have available flexible payment, trade, and financing arrangements that will help to bolster Latin American integration.

The accord calls for the creation of a consultative council that will monitor the progress of the comprehensive policy that commercial banks are pursuing in this area.

Another function of the consultative council will be to propose new financing instruments and loan insurance to help boost nontraditional exports and to design programs and promotional activities to encourage the use of the financial instruments that are part of the export financing policy.

The accord was signed at the headquarters of the Central Bank of Venezuela. In attendance were the president of the Central Bank, Pedro R. Tinoco Jr.; the presidents of the Bank Association, Jose Bouza Izquierdo, and of the ICE, Gabriela Febres Cordero; and the vice president of Finexpo, Policarpo Rodriguez.

Concurrently, Finexpo signed individual contracts with a group of commercial banks to which it granted lines of credit in dollars that they will use to finance nontraditional exports.

The contracts call for joint financing, which means that one half of the funds will be supplied by Finexpo and the other half by each of the commercial banks.

The proceeds will be earmarked to finance up to 100 percent of the FOB [free-on-board] value of the preshipment operations in the form of "working capital." They also provide for 100 percent of the CIF [cost, insurance, and freight] value of postshipping operations in the form of "goods financing."

The contracts will be valid for one year and are automatically renewable for the same period unless the parties express a desire to terminate them. The interest rate that the financing bank will pay Finexpo on the amounts of the credit line that it uses will be LIBOR [London interbank offered rate] plus 1 percent on a six-month term.

The bank will receive loan requests directly from the interested party and will take responsibility for analyzing them, deciding to whom it will grant loans, and requiring the collateral that it deems necessary for the preshipment loans. The postshipment collateral will be the credit instruments arising from the loans granted to the exporter, duly backed by the respective loan insurance policy.

The president of the Central Bank of Venezuela, Pedro R. Tinoco, emphasized that the agreement reaffirms the high priority that the government attaches to expanding and diversifying our nontraditional exports.

He also underscored that nontraditional exports can be expanded only through a major nationwide effort with the cooperation of the public and private sectors.

Moreover, he reaffirmed that the forecasts of 8 percent growth in the GDP [gross domestic product] this year and inflation of under 20 percent still stand. To this end the government is observing fiscal discipline and pursuing a monetary policy of limiting the money supply to the economy's real requirements. Concurrently, tariffs are being cut, and new competition is being introduced into the domestic economy.

As for reforming the financial system, he indicated that a comprehensive analysis is being conducted of the public and private financial system and of the capital market. The audit that is being conducted in accordance with generally accepted standards and principles is almost finished; its aim is to assess the condition of the Venezuelan financial market, its strong and weak points.

A review of the entire legal framework governing it is also being prepared. This includes a new Bank Oversight Law and amendments to the Fogade Law, the General Bank Law, the BCV Law, the Public Credit Law, and the Capital Markets Law. The administration will soon submit the bills to Congress.

As for the private foreign debt, Tinoco indicated that there are close to 1,200 files, more than 900 of which have been reviewed. He explained that this is a complicated process with many requirements, with a great many certifications that have to come from overseas. As a result, the process will take some time, and many of the files are missing some element that prevents approval from being given immediately.

The missing elements have been reported both to the processing banks and to the interested debtors, but since many of them originate overseas, this always takes time, and we hope that we can complete the process by the end of this month.

* Central Bank Head on 1991 Economic Growth

91SM0266B Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish Second Section13 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The president of the Central Bank of Venezuela, Dr. Pedro R. Tinoco Jr., asserted that the country's international reserves continue to improve and are already above $11.8 billion.

Dr. Tinoco made the announcement after his address at the Investing in Venezuela seminar at which he made some remarks about the austerity policy.

Tinoco confirmed that international reserves continue to improve not only as a result of the short-term increase in foreign-exchange inflows from oil but also above all owing to the austerity measures that have been adopted. These measures have made possible major foreign-exchange savings tied to the rescheduling of the debt.

He mentioned that the exchange rate remains at a competitive level. He added that to the extent that inflation is controlled and reduced, we may see a more favorable bolivar-dollar exchange rate.

As for the involvement of foreign banks in commercial banking, Tinoco commented that this is an issue that the National Congress ultimately has to resolve. It requires a modification of the current provisions of our Bank Law.

Tinoco feels that what has to be included in the new General Bank Law is a flexible arrangement that allows for a steady opening up to the involvement of foreign capital in the domestic financial system, in accordance with what is best for and the real needs of the economy at each juncture.

He also mentioned that for more than two years the government has been pursuing a new, comprehensive, and consistent economic policy whose main points are, among others, the program of economic adjustments designed to restore the basic balance of the economy.

The policy has focused on abolishing exchange controls and on establishing an uncontrolled, floating system. Thus, from a current-account deficit of around $5.8 billion in 1988, the country has posted surpluses of $2.5 and $7.4 billion in 1989 and 1990.

As of last 31 December, international reserves stood at $11.5 billion, and so far this year they have increased by slightly more than $300 million.

He mentioned that, secondly, the policy has focused on abolishing controls on interest rates by allowing rates to be guided or determined by the market, by imposing positive rates in real terms; there is also a program of monetary investments designed to channel them towards the real requirements of the market.

The program of fiscal discipline enabled us to move from a deficit equivalent to 8.6 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP] in 1988 to one equivalent to 1.1 percent in 1989. The surplus in 1990 amounted to 0.8 percent of the GDP, and estimates are that it will be 1.2 percent this year.

Concurrently, price controls were abolished, and subsidies were redirected under an ongoing policy of battling inflation. This entails fiscal-discipline measures, tight monetary controls, and commercial reform aimed at expanding market competition.

The measures to control inflation have had an impact, having brought the rate of price rises down from 81 percent in 1989 to 36.5 percent in 1990; estimates are that it will be below 20 percent this year.

The hope is to reduce inflation to this level while the economy recovers, thus enabling last year's expansion to continue. Accordingly, the hope is to post real GDP growth of 8 percent this year.

As for the structural reforms that are under way, Tinoco commented that in the area of trade policy the government has proceeded to reduce protectionism, promote an increase in nontraditional exports, and reschedule the public foreign debt.

The reforms of the tax system and the financial sector are under way. To this end we have solid financial support from the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

All of the measures adopted have made for renewed confidence in the country's economy, and more than $2 billion in capital has verifiably returned.

Among the prospects for this year, Tinoco mentioned that the oil sector would expand; macroeconomic fundamentals would stabilize; production capacity would expand; refinancing capacity would expand and improve, and heavy crude oils would improve.

Guyana

Commonwealth Team To Monitor Voter Registration

FL1904234091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1834 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] London, April 19, CANA—An advance team of Commonwealth observers will go to Guyana April 28 to monitor current voter enumeration for elections to be held by year-end, a Commonwealth statement said. The team includes former Ontario premiers—David Peterson (Liberal), and Frank Miller (Conservative); Jamaica's director of elections Noel Lee; and Trinidad and Tobago's chief elections officer Joycelyn Lucas, assisted by Commonwealth secretariat legal division staffer Richard Nzerem.

The Guyana Government last September asked Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku to appoint a Commonwealth observer group for the elections, after persistently denying claims by opposition and other groups that previous elections were plagued by irregularities.

The government subsequently also asked the Jimmy Carter Centre of the U.S. Emory University to observe the elections. Two Carter Centre teams visited Guyana in the past month to observe the voter registration exercise, and expressed satisfaction with the progress being made.

A planning mission from the Commonwealth secretariat went to Guyana last year to contact political parties and interest groups and assess the logistics of mounting an observer mission. The secretary general, after receiving

the planning mission's report, confirmed that a team of "eminent Commonwealth personalities" would observe the election.

Anyaoku has reiterated the importance attached to the Guyana observer mission which, like missions to Malaysia last October and Bangladesh this year, is "part of a Commonwealth initiative to help member countries strengthen their democratic institutions," the secretariat said.

Hoyte Appoints Election Commission Director

FL2304125591 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte has named a veteran diplomat as head of the Election Commission. Rudy Collins is a former Guyanese ambassador to Venezuela and was working as director of administration at the Caricom Secretariat in Georgetown. He replaces chairman Sir Harold Mullers who was considered unacceptable by the opposition. The appointment of Mr. Collins and the expansion of the commission were made in a speech by Mr. Hoyte on nationwide television and radio Sunday night.

Guyanese opposition leader Cheddi Jagan has welcomed the appointment of Mr. Collins. He praised the former diplomat's competence and said he was confident that he would carry out the election effectively. However, the politician said the naming of the new election commission chairman does not entirely clear the way for fair election. Mr. Jagan called for more election observers to come to Guyana including representatives of the Organization of American States, the European Community Parliament, and the United Nations. He also expressed concern over the possibility of election violence.

Suriname

Watchdog Groups Monitor Election Arrangements

FL1704143991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1122 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 17, CANA—Four representatives of the human rights watchdogs, Caribbean Rights, and Americas Watch, were due in Suriname Wednesday to monitor arrangements for the May 25 general election.

The mission comprises University of the West Indies lecturer, Dr. Neville Duncan, and Guyanese trade union official, N.K. Gopaul, representing Caribbean Rights; Robert Goldman and Ms. Lis Fleischman, lawyers representing the New York-based Americas Watch.

The Barbados-based liaison office of Caribbean Rights said on Wednesday that the mission to Suriname was in keeping with the organisation's "work programme to defend and promote human rights, including a people's right to freely choose their government."

The organisation, with affiliates in various Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] countries, Haiti, and Puerto Rico, has been participating in election-monitoring exercises in Haiti since 1987.

The team to Suriname will spend a week examining arrangements being made by the Surinamese authorities. It will submit a report indicating whether or not it considers such arrangements could guarantee free and fair elections, Caribbean Rights said.

Bouterse 'Not Against Changing' Constitution

PY2204204391 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] According to Army leader Desi Bouterse, those people who are calling for a change in the Constitution want the position of the Army eliminated. Bouterse said on Friday last during a meeting with [word indistinct] at the (Memerekoop) barracks that he is not against changing the Constitution as long as it is in the national interest.

It is also a fact that the national Army is playing an important role in the democratization process and every government will take this into account, said Bouterse. He emphasized that the Army is aware that its involvement in the future will be diminished because, in the final analysis, it will be the people who will have to be the vanguard in the development process. Until then, this armed power will take the lead in protecting the national interests and defend the sovereignty, peace, and stability in the country, said Bouterse on Friday last.

He stressed that the national Army will do this in harmonious cooperation with every government which comes to power. Army leader Bouterse, who also talked about the peace process, pointed out that there is every likelihood that this could be achieved before the election. This will be a stepping stone for the coming government to continue with the development of Suriname, said Bouterse, in [words indistinct].